FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-100
Wednesday
26 May 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-100 26 May 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians Want Enviromental Institute in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Conference on Environment in Mediterranean Continues 1
Northern Nations Urged To Help *[MAP]* 1
Environmental Strategy Discussed *[Rabat TV]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

ARABSAT Plans 'Second-Generation' Satellites *[WAKH]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Mecca Seminar on Hajj, Affinity Confirms Ruling on Rushdie *[Tehran Radio]* 2
Pakistan's Pirzada Addresses ICO on Bosnian Peace Plan *[Islamabad Radio]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Reportedly Urges Rabin-'Arafat Meeting *[AL-MANAR 24 May]* 2
Al-Husayni Affirms U.S. Invitation, Denies Differences *[Jerusalem TV]* 3
'Arafat Adviser Urges U.S. To Fulfill Promises *[AL-QUDS 24 May]* 3
'Abd-al-Shafi Says No Crisis in Talks, Merely 'Tactics' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Hawatimah Urges Suspension of Talks, Delay of PCC Meeting *[AL-QUDS 24 May]* 4
Ten Factions Urge Withdrawal, National Dialogue *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Gaza Mayor Interviewed on Prospects of Israeli Withdrawal *[Cairo International]* 5
U.S. Said Considering $1.2 Billion Aid to West Bank, Gaza *[AL-NAHAR 22 May]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Further Reportage on Foreign Minister's U.S. Visit 7
'Responsiveness,' 'Understanding' Cited *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 May]* 7
Foreign Minister Concludes Visit *[Algiers TV]* 7
Warrants Issued for Airport Bomb Suspects *[Algiers TV]* 7
Council, Political Parties Begin 'New' Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 7
RCD Explains Reasons for Boycotting Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Defense Ministry 'Source' Explains Tourist Bus Incident *[MENA]* 8
Tourists in Stable Condition *[MENA]* 8
Arrest of Soldiers Denied *[MENA]* 8
Death Sentence for 1, Life for 3 for Killing Officer *[MENA]* 8
'Extremists' Kill 3 Soldiers at Compound Near Cairo *[AFP]* 8
Security Source Denies Report *[MENA]* 9
60 Palestinian Detainees Reportedly Held Without Trial *[AL-SHA'B 21 May]* 9
Muslim Brotherhood Leader Denies Links With 'Extremists'
[London AL-HAWADITH 21 May] 9
Terrorism Poll: 97 Percent See No Threat to Stability *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 20 May]* 10

Paper Reports on Labor Party Elections, Reorganization *[AL-SHA'B 21 May]* 11
Interior Ministry Seizes Religious Cassettes *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 20 May]* 12
Amnesty International Criticizes Security Forces Procedures *[AFP]* 12
Musa, South Africa's Botha Begin Official Talks *[MENA]* 12
Comment After Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Information Minister Comments on Mubarak Talks in Eritrea *[MENA]* 13
Editor Criticizes U.S., European Bosnia Policy *[AL-AHRAM 22 May]* 13
Kurdish Currency To Spell 'Danger' for Iraqi Unity *[AL-AHRAM 22 May]* 13
Assistant Foreign Minister Leaves on Visit to Albania *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Cairo-Khartoum Phone Call Prompts Telephone Restrictions *[AL-AHALI 19 May]* 14

Sudan

SPLA Faction Comments on Referendum 'Deal' *[London International]* 14
RCC Official Comments on Hala'ib Issue *[SUNA]* 15
Minister on Military Intervention in South, Hala'ib *[SUNA]* 15
Government: Fighting With SPLA 'Imminent' *[London International]* 15
Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on South *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Al-Mirghani: Constitutional Conference 'Only Way' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 May]* .. 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Iran's Velayati Says Talks 'Fruitful,' Departs *[WAKH]* 18

Kuwait

Iran's Velayati Arrives From Manama *[KUNA]* 18
Overview of Issues *[KUNA]* 18
Comments on Results of Tour *[Tehran Radio]* 18
Meets With Foreign Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 19
Conveys Message to Amir *[Tehran Radio]* 19

Saudi Arabia

Prince Accuses Western Media of 'Negative Approach' *[London AL-HAYAH 24]* 19
Arab Human Rights Group Denounces Government *[AFP]* 20
Al-Jibrin Confirms Resignation From Rights Committee *[SPA]* 20
Number of Pilgrims Totals 935,076 by 24 May *[SPA]* 21
King Fahd Receives Message from France's Balladur *[SPA]* 21
Great Strides Made in Agricultural Sector *[SPA]* 21

United Arab Emirates

Indian Minister Rejects Islamic Resolution on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 21
Rules Out Mediation *[Delhi Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Foreign Ministry Protests 'Hostile' Iranian Raids *[INA]* 23
Parliament Speaker: Iran Should Make Gesture of Goodwill *[AFP]* 23
Denies Plans To Attack Kurdish Areas *[AFP]* 23
AL-THAWRAH Warns Iran Against 'Playing With Fire' *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Kurdish Chiefs on Iranian Raids, U.S. Stance *[Paris LE MONDE 25 May]* 24
Departs With Delegation for Saudi Arabia *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 25
Kurdish Radio Cites Capture of Bomb Perpetrators *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 25
Hundreds Said Arrested in al-Fallujah *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 26
Saddam Addresses Diyala Dignitaries *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Saddam Receives Military Commanders on Battle Anniversary *[INA]* 27
Official: Oil Reserves Total 112 Billion Barrels *[INA]* 28

'First of Its Kind' Bridge Under Construction in South *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 24 May]* 28
Water for Cooling Power Plants To Be Used for Irrigation *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 24 May]* 28
Egypt Reportedly Requests Payment for Arms, Transport *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 28

ISRAEL

Dutch Minister Discusses Peace Talks With Peres *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Meets With Palestinians *[Jerusalem TV]* 29

JORDAN

Defendant in World Trade Center Bombing Interviewed *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 26 May]* 30
King Criticizes Iraqi Regime, Press Distortions *[London AL-HAYAH 24 May]* 30
AL-HAYAH Banned for Report on Remarks *[AL-DUSTUR 26 May]* 31
Iraqis Urged To Take Steps To End Crisis *[JORDAN TIMES 26 May]* 31
Israeli Daily Reports Interviews With King, Others *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 25 May]* 32

LEBANON

PLO's Qaddumi Discusses Peace Talks With Buwayz *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Leaves for Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Deportee Spokesman Warns Against Concessions *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Rejects U.S. 'Request' To Dissolve PLO *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 33
Hungarian Official Meets al-Hirawi, Buwayz *[Beirut Radio]* 34
AL-QABAS Interviews Defense Minister on Peace *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Islamic Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties *[VOM]* 34
Reports Attack on Enemy Position *[Beirut Radio]* 34
SLA Radio Reports Soldier Wounded in 25 May Attack *[Voice of the South]* 34
Amal Movement Claims Attack on SLA Position *[VOL]* 34

SYRIA

PLO's Qaddumi Voices Satisfaction With Visit *[SANA]* 35
Officials Express Displeasure With U.S. Over Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 May]* 35
Media Criticize U.S. Position on Peace Talks 35
'Retreat' on Sending Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Working To Help Israelis *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Papers Urge Pressure on Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Shiite Fighters in Kabul 'Scornful' of Iran *[AFP]* 38

Bangladesh

Home Minister, Burmese Counterpart Discuss Refugees *[Dhaka Radio]* 39
Burmese Minister Calls on Premier *[Dhaka Radio]* 39

India

Police Stop Tibetans From Storming PRC Embassy *[AFP]* 39
Minister Visits Gulf To Counter Pakistan Campaign *[Delhi International]* 39
Congress-I Leader Demands Party Apology for Mosque Attack *[AFP]* 40
Party Spokesman Reacts *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Minister Rules Out Pressures on Dunkel Proposals *[Delhi TV]* 41
Political Parties Oppose Move To Repatriate Chakmas *[PATRIOT 17 May]* 41
Army Following Two-Prong Strategy in Kashmir *[Delhi TV]* 42
Export Growth Rate Below Target *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 18 May]* 42

Iran

Military Source Confirms Air Attack in Iraq *[Tehran TV]* 43
Letter Sent to Butrus-Ghali *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Majles Official Comments *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Nateq-Nuri on Raid on MKO Targets, Other Issues *[IRNA]* 43
Further on Remarks *[Tehran TV]* 44
Government To Release 100 More Iraqi POW's *[IRNA]* 45
Foreign Ministry Rejects West's Bosnia Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Commentary Criticizes Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 45
President Receives Bosnian Envoy *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Students Protest Invitation for Visit by Saudi King *[AFP]* 46
Larijani Says U.S. Seeks To Replace Saudi Rulers *[RESALAT 16 May]* 47
Commentary Discusses Velayati Tour, Gulf Relations *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Commentary Notes Preconditions for Peace in Karabakh *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Azerbaijani Ambassador Discusses Karabakh, Ties *[HAMSHAHRI 11 May]* 49
President Welcomes Expansion of Ties With Indonesia *[IRNA]* 50
Culture Minister, Bangladeshi Official Confer *[Dhaka Radio]* 50
German Parliamentarians Praise Human Rights Situation *[Tehran Radio]* 51
President Stresses Importance of Mining Industry *[Tehran Radio]* 51
DPK Political Bureau Statement on 22 May Plenum *[Voice of Iranian Kurdistan]* 51
* Slaughter, Distribution of Sick Livestock Noted *[London KEYHAN 29 Apr]* 52

Pakistan

Supreme Court Overturns President's Dismissal of Sharif *[Islamabad TV]* 53
Reaction to Ruling *[AFP]* 53
President To Abide by Verdict *[Islamabad TV]* 54
Afghan President Views Weapons Collection, Departs *[Islamabad TV]* 55
Statement Regrets UN Inaction on Bosnian Crisis *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Ishaq Khan Decorates Chinese Air Force Chief *[Islamabad TV]* 55
New Islamic Front Outlines 14-Point Program *[THE MUSLIM 25 May]* 55

Sri Lanka

Three Tamils Die in Navy Attack on Rebel Boats *[AFP]* 57
Battles in Northeast Leave 7 Dead *[AFP]* 57
Detention of Tamils Without Trial Criticized *[VIRAKESARI 14 May]* 57

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians Want Enviromental Institute in Territories

TA2505150193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The last day of the multilateral peace talks on environmental affairs in Tokyo was marred by the Palestinian delegation's demand to announce the establishment of a national Palestinian institute for the environment in the territories within the framework of autonomy. The Palestinians threatened to boycott the closing session if their demand were rejected.

Dr. Yisra'el Peleg, head of the Israeli delegation, ultimately agreed to issue a closing announcement stating that the conference supports the establishment of institutions and the development of the ability to handle environmental projects in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and such an announcement was indeed issued. Dr. Peleg told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that he agreed to this formulation because for their part the Palestinians agreed to several projects presented in the conference. The next meeting on environmental affairs will be held in Cairo in mid-October.

Conference on Environment in Mediterranean Continues

Northern Nations Urged To Help

LD2505184993 Rabat MAP in English 1306 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Casablanca, May 25 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri Monday called here on the rich nations of the north bank of the Mediterranean to further heed "the serious environment issues which are sometimes of vital importance and which particularly affect the countries of the southern bank" of the sea.

In an address before the opening here Monday of the Ministerial Conference on Environment in the Mediterranean Region co-sponsored by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, Basri recalled recommendations and workplans adopted at last year's Earth Conference. He said the Mediterranean basin was chosen as the best site for testing ecology protection activity.

He cited population growth, tourism, industrialization, overuse of natural resources as redoubtable threats for the eco-system and sea life adding that south Mediterranean countries are also faced with drought, natural resources exhaustion and degradation of urban milieux.

Basri said north and south Mediterranean nations are bound by the threats and must combine efforts to find a genuine method for promoting both development and environment in the Mediterranean.

Environmental Strategy Discussed

LD2505220893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The future of the environment in one of the most important parts of the globe, the Mediterranean, was the focus of discussions at the ministerial conference on the environment in the Mediterranean. The discussions focused on the second stage of Mediterranean environmental strategy for the next three years.

The conference is scheduled to end its proceedings today by endorsing a number of resolutions and recommendations. The Moroccan experts expected that the conference will produce a comprehensive vision of the strategy for the national environment, the strategy defended by these experts at the Casablanca conference from the premise of the accumulation of many years' experience in the environmental sphere. These experts and officials want a national strategy taking into consideration the regional dimension of the position of Morocco, which has for years been active in the environmental sphere within the framework of Moroccan laws, international charters, and regional agreements. For example, there are the efforts of the National Center for the Safety of Maritime Navigation:.

[Begin recording] [Spokesman for National Center for the Safety of Maritime Navigation] More than 500,000 ships pass through the Mediterranean every year, some carrying oil products, some carrying hazardous materials. Then we have in the Atlantic more than 2 million tonnes of hydrocarbons [as heard]. As regards prevention, the daily continuous task of this center is to monitor and guard Moroccan ships and also foreign ships. As regards prevention, we work in total coordination with the Ministry of Interior and with the Secretariat for the Protection of the Environment. Within this framework, an important project has been accomplished: a national quick-action plan for the confrontation of pollution accidents. [end recording]

[Announcer] The new Moroccan law provides for all ships and carriers to keep a distance of more than 50 miles from the Moroccan shore. This is only part of the attempts and many efforts in the field of the environment, efforts which experts and official wish today to operate within the context of a general strategy.

Inter-Arab Affairs

ARABSAT Plans 'Second-Generation' Satellites

JN2505163793 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Manama, May 25 (GNA)—Gulf International Bank [GIB] B.S.C has been mandated by Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (ARABSAT) to arrange on its behalf 104 million dollar eight and half year commercial loan facility.

The purpose of the loan is to build two second-generation satellites, including the launch and insurance of one and the storage of the second.

This loan facility, not only further cements the close relationship that exists between GIB and ARABSAT but also represents GIB's continued commitment to play a leading role in the progress and prosperity of the Arab countries.

Islamic Affairs

Mecca Seminar on Hajj, Affinity Confirms Ruling on Rushdie

LD2405170593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] The two-day seminar on hajj and the affinity [between Islamic sects] in Mecca which was attended by a group of Muslim ulema and thinkers has ended.

Participants in the seminar thanked Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, for his order to establish a world organization for affinity between Islamic sects and called on the organization to increase its activities and speed up the formation of an Islamic multisectarian university in Tehran. [passage omitted]

Participants supported the historic edict of Imam Khomeyni's on Salman Rushdie and condemned aggression against Muslim rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Tajikistan, Azarbayjan, India, and other parts of the world and further called for close ranks among Muslims to face these aggressions.

In this morning's seminar meeting, Mr. Sa'id Muhammad Baqer Hakim from Iraq, Professor Mahbub al-Rahman from Bangladesh, Mohammad Baqer Hojati from Iran, Professor Hosayn Zakariya from Guinea, Professor Tavasuli from Pakistan, Shaykh Salman Saleh from Syria, Mohammad Fuji from Germany, Dr. 'Ali A'mad from Lebanon, Mulayi Eshaq Madani, a Sunni ulema from Iran, Professor Hassan al-Hayari from Jordan, 'Ali Otar from Turkey, and Shaykh Afis Nablusi from Lebanon—in that order—spoke extensively on the various political, social, economic, and religious aspects of the hajj.

Pakistan's Pirzada Addresses ICO on Bosnian Peace Plan

BK2505041693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Criticizing the joint strategy announced by the United States, Russia, and their European allies on Bosnia-hercegovina, Pakistan has urged the Islamic world to reject it. This was stated by Foreign Minister Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada while addressing the emergency session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in New York yesterday, which was convened by Pakistan as the chairman of the ICO. The foreign minister said it seems that the strategy is aimed at thwarting any effective measures against Serbian aggression and depriving the government and the people of Bosnia-hercegovina of their basic right of defense. He said the Serbs cannot be allowed to benefit from their aggression, the genocide of Muslims, and the occupation of Muslim territories. He said Muslim countries should make clear to the world that they cannot support the strategy in view of the fact that a genocide of Muslims is being carried out and the massacre of helpless Muslims is being ignored. Pirzada asked the Islamic countries to urge the international community to take solid and decisive steps to establish peace in Bosnia-hercegovina, lift the arms embargo on Bosnia-hergovina, and use force to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population. He said if the European countries feel that they cannot punish the aggressor, as the security of their troops is in peril, they should withdraw their forces from there and permit other countries to deploy theirs with UN supervision. In this connection, he recalled the offer made by several Islamic countries, including Pakistan, to participate in the UN Peacekeeping force as well as in steps to establish peace in Bosnia-hercegovina. Pirzada has said, if the international community fails to prevent aggression against Bonsia-hercegovina, it will have far-reaching consequences on peace and stability in the world. He said if the aggression is not checked, weak and small countries will lose confidence in the United Nations in regard to the protection of their security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Reportedly Urges Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA2505152693 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 24 May 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Israel is currently studying a U.S. query on whether Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is ready to meet with President Yasir 'Arafat.

U.S. political circles are convinced that such a meeting would remove the obstacles to the peace process and contribute to a quick realization of a settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

In a report to the U.S. Administration, those circles add that the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue will encourage Rabin to meet 'Arafat without being embarrassed in front of his opponents in the Israeli arena. The same circles acknowledge that Rabin is amenable to such a move, but he is waiting for the appropriate time after progress is achieved in the talks.

In a related development, Palestinian sources say that the Palestinian leadership has put forward conditions for participating in the next round of negotiations. Those conditions are:

—Resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

—Participation of PLO Executive Committee members in the talks.

—Holding of official Israeli-Palestinian meetings.

These conditions have been conveyed to Cairo and Washington. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to the Egyptian president, will discuss this issue with the U.S. Administration during his current visit to Washington.

Al-Husayni Affirms U.S. Invitation, Denies Differences

TA2505173793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 May 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Yoni Ben-Menahem; on 25 May in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Has an invitation been extended to you and Dr. 'Ashrawi from the U.S. State Department to visit Washington?

[Al-Husayni] There is an invitation, but not specifically for me or Dr. 'Ashrawi. It is a general invitation to go to Washington....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Before the 10th round?

[Al-Husayni] Of course, before the 10th round.

[Ben-Menahem] This means that the U.S. State Department delegation will not come here to hold talks with you.

[Al-Husayni] I have not heard from any official party that a U.S. delegation was on the verge of coming here.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. al-Husayni, do you have any problem with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi?

[Al-Husayni, laughing] There are no problems with Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi at all. On the contrary....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] How do you interpret the contradictory statements by you and Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi?

[Al-Husayni] There were no contradictory statements, rather there were fragmented or incomplete remarks. Consequently, some people began to interpret them differently. Today, or rather yesterday, a joint statement was issued to eliminate any effects of such an incorrect belief, for which I can say that sometimes the manner in which these reports are published is responsible more than anything else.

[Ben-Menahem] Dr. Haydar supports suspension, and you support the continuation of the talks....

[Al-Husayni, interrupting] This is something else. We are viewing a single issue, and each of us believes that there is a specific way of reaching the goal. All of us agree, however, on one thing, namely, that whether the talks are suspended or continued is a decision for the Palestinian leadership.

'Arafat Adviser Urges U.S. To Fulfill Promises

TA2505152193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 May 93 pp 1, 2

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—In a telephone interview from Tunis, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said that the PLO takes pride in its democratic system and that it was not surprising for voices to be raised against the peace process. He said: "There is a Palestinian minority—whom we respect—that opposes the peace process, but the majority of the Palestinian people have decided to adhere to the peace process under clear terms epitomized by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and full realization of Palestinian political rights."

Abu-Sharif cautioned the U.S. Administration over the gravity of the situation and against the danger that this commitment to the peace process might turn into extremism if tangible and practical steps toward transferring power to the Palestinians in the occupied territories are not taken. Abu-Sharif said that the entire peace process will be endangered if the United States does not fulfill its promises to the Palestinians. He added: "The situation for the PLO is not simple. If real and concrete progress is not achieved in the talks, the entire Middle East region will be dragged toward extremism and turmoil."

'Abd-al-Shafi Says No Crisis in Talks, Merely 'Tactics'

TA2605094793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Chief Palestinian delegate to the peace talks Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi says there has been no real crisis in the peace process, and the ensuing complications were merely negotiating tactics. An effort should be made to overcome the difficulties, and progress can certainly be made, 'Abd-al-Shafi told the opening session of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] conference in Nazareth, where 'Abd-al-Shafi was a guest of honor.

At the beginning of the conference, a congratulatory wire from PLO chief 'Arafat was read to the participants. The wire stated that the peace talks were important because there was no other solution.

Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that Knesset Members Hashim Mahamid and Tamar Gozansky, the leaders of HADASH, sharply attacked the government policy in the territories, the closure, the deportations, and what they termed other injustices.

President 'Ezer Weizman and Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss apologized for not being able to attend the opening session because of the holiday.

Hawatimah Urges Suspension of Talks, Delay of PCC Meeting

TA2505145593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 May 93 p 2

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stressed that convening the Palestine Central Council [PCC] at present does not respond to its national role.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Hawatimah said that the political divisions in the ranks of our people, in the intifadah, and in the PLO have become deeper and broader following the ninth round. Hawatimah emphasized that the ninth round ended with results that now place the destiny of the homeland and the people in a greater danger. On the one hand, the negotiating team failed to persuade the Israeli side to adhere to Resolution 242 as the point of reference of the talks in all their stages. Namely, it was unable to obtain from Rabin's government a commitment to the principle of applying this resolution to the occupied Palestinian territories. On the other hand, the team also failed to induce Rabin's government to place Jerusalem—as an issue and in representation—on the agenda, to stop settlement activity, and to implement the Fourth Geneva Convention. Hawatimah added: The bitterness of failure was behind Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's clamor.

Hawatimah described the ninth round as a fateful danger in that three self-administration plans were discussed. He considered the most dangerous of these to be the U.S. plan—biased toward the Israeli plan. Hawatimah said: Therefore, it has become certain that the 10th round will be one of a declaration of Israeli principles with the Palestinian negotiating team over self-administration.

Hawatimah said that the U.S. plan considers the occupied territories to be disputed areas. Even more dangerous, it views Jerusalem and the settlements as attached to Israel.

Hawatimah added: The danger lies in considering the outcome of negotiations over the final-stage implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 and not the application of Resolution 242 to the occupied land in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to ensure that Israeli forces withdraw from them.

Hwatimah believes that the situation now is at a crucial junction for the destiny of the homeland and the people as well as for the more tragic destiny of Jerusalem. Therefore, convening the PCC does not respond to the national role of returning everyone to the national plan and stopping the stampede behind the Madrid-Washington plan.

Hawatimah stressed that what is required now is a suspension of the bilateral talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track and a declaration of inter-Palestinian principles before running after a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. Hawatimah also called for constructing the foundations of the negotiating process in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In this context, Hawatimah affirmed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and all factions, forces, and figures in the occupied territories and the diaspora have been invited to hold a comprehensive national dialogue and to postpone the PCC meeting.

Ten Factions Urge Withdrawal, National Dialogue

JN2505185693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 May 93

["Text" of a statement by the "10 Palestinian factions"; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The 10 Palestinian factions have met to study the latest political developments at Arab and Palestinian levels. The 10 factions have highly praised the expansion and growth in militant activities inside and outside the occupied homeland and the acts of revolutionary violence carried out by the valiant sons of our people against the occupation troops and the herds of settlers, despite the continued complete closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the attempt to starve our people, the isolation of Jerusalem, and the enemy's increasingly oppressive and terroristic measures against our people.

The 10 factions affirmed the need to pool all national resources to provide all means to support the steadfastness of our people inside and outside the occupied homeland and to enable them to continue and escalate their intifadah.

The 10 factions hailed the steadfastness of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees and their insistence on seeing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates their immediate and en masse return to their homeland. The 10 factions urge the Arab and Muslim masses and world forces advocating justice and freedom to act to implement that resolution.

The 10 Palestinian factions discussed in detail the insistence by the PLO's influential leadership and its negotiating team to continue their involvement in the Madrid-Washington negotiations, chasing after illusive U.S.-Zionist promises, ignoring the will of the vast majority of our masses and their nationalistic forces that reject that destructive course.

The ninth round yielded a bitter harvest, represented by the U.S. plan to bridge the gap via a joint declaration of principles over the administrative self-rule conspiracy. That U.S. plan was in great harmony with the Zionist plan.

Despite this, and despite the major shock that exacerbated the crisis when Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi

announced the death of the ninth round and said he plans to boycott the tenth round; when Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih resigned his post as Palestine National Council speaker for the political reasons mentioned in his statement, in which he said he opposes the policies of the influential leadership on the ongoing negotiations; and when the Palestinian People's Party suspended its participation in the ninth round for the same reasons—despite all that, and despite the fact that its destructive policies were exposed from within by people who joined it on that path, the influential leadership continues with its sin and is preparing a team to hold a U.S.-Zionist-Palestinian meeting before the tenth round, designed to reach agreement on the draft of a joint declaration of principles based on the U.S. plan.

The 10 Palestinian factions again urge the influential leadership to announce its withdrawal from the bilateral and multilateral negotiations by boycotting the tenth round, heeding the will of the Palestinian people and their nationalistic forces that reject that destructive course. Such a step would be the key to a comprehensive national dialogue among all nationalistic and Islamic Palestinian forces to restore the PLO's unity, redraft the Palestinian national stand, and adhere to the Palestinian people's legitimate inalienable rights in liberation, repatriation, and self-determination on their national soil.

Glory to the intifadah. Immortality to the martyrs.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions.

Gaza Mayor Interviewed on Prospects of Israeli Withdrawal

NC2605073193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 26 May 93

[Telephone interview with Gaza Mayor Zakariyah Makki, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Brother listeners, there are reports about prospects of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently announced that he plans to submit the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to a referendum. We are now speaking by telephone with Gaza Mayor Dr. Zakariya Makki. Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs [VOA].

[Makki] Thank you. I am very happy to meet with VOA employees and listeners. My regards to you. We, the Palestinians, regard the Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza as one territory. If Mr. Rabin insists on withdrawing from the Gaza Strip so that the PLO may take it over as a step on the way to a solution, I believe that the Palestinians will not object. Nevertheless, we maintain that the issue must not be divided. Gaza and the West Bank are one unit that will constitute the Palestinian state in the future. We cannot accept a withdrawal from Gaza alone at the expense of the West Bank. If it is a first step, however, we welcome it on condition that the PLO and other forces are stationed there to defend the area. This can be the case until the West Bank issue is resolved and it is united with Gaza.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Makki, some observers believe that by his recent announcement that he will submit the withdrawal issue to an Israeli referendum, Rabin planned to prepare the Israeli public to accept the principle of withdrawal.

[Makki] At first we expected much from Rabin's government on the grounds that it formed a coalition with Meretz and other pro- peace parties. We are now surprised to see Rabin himself coming under intense pressure from Israeli rightist parties such as the Likud, Moledet, Tsomet, and other religious parties. This is what is driving him to hold a referendum. There is no need for a referendum. You remember, for example, that when Israel withdrew from Sinai, the Likud did not resort to a referendum. I believe that if Rabin's government is serious about withdrawing from the occupied territories, it can do so in line with UN resolutions. It is the government in charge and can withdraw without holding a referendum.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Makki, do you think that occupied Gaza's difficult economic conditions are a main motive for Israel's possible withdrawal?

[Makki] Gaza's difficult economic conditions are not the only cause. Gaza is overcrowded and small. Israel, of course, does not view it as a territorial prize. Additionally, it causes it security problems. Of course, we consider these incidents a method of opposing the occupation. Based on this, Israel views the Gaza Strip as a very small and densely populated territory. This prompts it to adopt the objective view that it cannot hold on to it.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Makki, do you think the Palestinian leadership is ready to take over the Gaza Strip from the Israeli occupation forces?

[Makki] This issue needs to be studied. The Gaza Strip has many needs. The Palestinian leadership needs to make a very careful study of this issue. The area must also be defended. I am not conversant with the Palestinian leadership's current capability to organize this defense. However, it can study the issue and it is of course able to make a practical response.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Makki, the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza continues. Do you believe that such actions by Rabin are harmonious with the current peace efforts and the Israeli Government's occasional statements about its willingness to establish peace?

[Makki] The closure is not a positive gesture. The negotiations should have been preceded by goodwill gestures. You know that all the balls are in Israel's court. The Palestinians do not have a ball to bargain with. The security closure smothers Gaza and the West Bank's economy. They are suffering a daily loss of $5 million as a result. Israel's own construction and agriculture sectors

have also lost millions of dollars because of the closure. The Israeli Government, however, can compensate for this. The West Bank and Gaza cannot compensate for their losses. I believe that goodwill gestures must precede any peace plan. The security cordon around the West Bank and Gaza, the increasing number of detainees, and the daily killings do not encourage the negotiating delegation or others to say real peace is coming. We know that peace means sacrifice from both sides: If Israel wants to live in peace with us, the Israelis must show goodwill, open the borders, allow the workers to go to their work, the Palestinian economy to operate, release the detainees, and return the deportees. I think that nothing of the sort has occurred to encourage the Palestinian delegation during the ninth round of negotiations.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Makki, thank you.

[Makki] I thank the VOA and its listeners. I wish you good health and independence and freedom for the Palestinian people.

U.S. Said Considering $1.2 Billion Aid to West Bank, Gaza

TA2505162193 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 May 93 pp 1, 7

["Exclusive" to AL-NAHAR]

[Excerpt] Washington—The U.S. Administration is contemplating asking Congress to authorize an urgent grant of about $1.2 billion in the form of development and construction aid to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip if an initial agreement on peace in the Middle East is reached.

Reports in this connection indicate that a large portion of this aid will be spent on the establishment of an infrastructure in these areas. In addition, large amounts will also be allocated for the development of industry, agriculture, and services. Some American experts are expected to visit the region to obtain first-hand information on the principal spheres of expenditure, reach agreement on them, and submit a relevant report to the U.S. Administration and Congress.

To forestall Israel's objection to spending large sums of U.S. money on the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the U.S. Administration has undertaken not to reduce the $3 billion annual U.S. aid to Israel. It was expected that this aid would be reduced considerably in keeping with the new U.S. economic program that calls for cutting U.S. foreign aid to other countries.

Informed circles pointed out that in pumping these amounts, the United States is seeking to establish a local Palestinian economic infrastructure able to create and generate job opportunities for Palestinian laborers who have been prevented from working in Israel for the last two months. Also, this program aims at providing employment for Palestinians who have returned from Kuwait after having been expelled from there following the Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Further Reportage on Foreign Minister's U.S. Visit

'Responsiveness,' 'Understanding' Cited

PM2505150793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 May 93 p 1

[Muhammad Sadiq report: "Algerian Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Discussed With Christopher Situation in Algeria and Terrorism Issue"]

[Excerpt] Washington—Algerian Foreign Minister Redha Malek announced at the end of his visit to Washington that during his talks with U.S. officials he exchanged with them views on several issues and topics, including the situation in Algeria, the terrorism issue, and the peace process in the Middle East. And that he encountered responsiveness and understanding from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and others.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Malek said that what concerns Algeria is the region's stability and for peace to prevail in the Arab Maghreb region. Thus, "we are working to to achieve rapprochement between us and the brothers in Morocco and Tunisia."

He added that his talks were conducted in a friendly atmosphere. He said, "especially as we knew Secretary Christopher before—which facilitated the talks."

He pointed out that the visit was a meeting with the new U.S. Administration and that he gave Secretary Christopher and other officials a picture of the situation in Algeria. He added that U.S. officials showed interest and response.

On the Sahara issue he said: We discussed the issue and we have to work and exert efforts to solve this problem. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

LD2505194993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Mr. Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council [HSC] and foreign minister, ended his visit to the United States yesterday. Over the five days of this visit, Mr. Redha Malek had several bilateral meetings with the Democrat administration in Washington and multilateral meetings in New York.

At the bilateral level, his meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Congress committee chairmen allowed a review of relations between the two countries and current international issues, in an atmosphere described as one of friendship and mutual trust.

In New York, Mr. Redha Malek reviewed with UN Secretary General Butros-Ghali and the U.S. representative a number of international issues, especially concerning Africa and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Redha Malek also had meetings in Washington and New York with members of the Algerian expatriate community, in which he explained the HSC's steps for restoring the situation in the country. He urged them to work in an organized manner to contribute to this task.

Warrants Issued for Airport Bomb Suspects

LD2505213693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpts] Concerning the affair of the airport bombing, the chairman of Algiers Special Justice Council announced today that sentences against the defendants in the airport case, who have been on trial since 5 May, are due to be handed down tomorrow, Wednesday. The Council opened deliberations at noon today. [passage omitted]

A judicial communique said international warrants have been issued for the arrest of those involved in the airport bombing who are on the run abroad and who have been tried in absentia at Algiers Justice Council, together with those already under arrest since 5 May. The same source said the warrants are in particular for the arrest of [imprisoned Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, leader] Abassi Madani's sons, Salman, Oussama, and Iqbal, who were charged with founding and leading a secret armed organization called Those Keeping the Pledge [al-haqun 'ala al-'ahd] whose members, the special Council has established, were linked with the bombing. An international warrant was also issued for the arrest of Rabah Kebir, a member of the outlawed FIS Political Committee, also on the run in Germany along with Abassi Madani's sons.

Warrants are also out for the arrest of Benmoussa Abdelkader, one of the principal masterminds of the bombing, who was smuggled to England, and Rezaf Djemal, who was smuggled to France and who has led terrorist cells, organized by Hassan Abderrahim in Bouzeriaa, which belonged to the Armed Islamic Movement headed by Chebouti, the communique concluded.

Council, Political Parties Begin 'New' Dialogue

LD2505211793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi, the Higher State Council [HSC] received at the Presidency today the first group of political parties consisting of the National Liberation Front, the Islamic Ennahda Movement, and the Social Liberal Party, in addition to representatives from the Patriotic Rally.

This meeting falls within the framework of the new stage of the dialogue which the HSC announced on 23 May would begin today.

According to well-informed sources, this stage of the dialogue will be organized in six rounds, each of which will include representatives of poliical parties, trade unions, and social organizations, as well as delegates from the associations' movement [as heard].

RCD Explains Reasons for Boycotting Dialogue

LD2405130893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] In its first reaction [to announcement of new round of dialogue on 25 May], the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] disclosed yesterday that it had received a document from the Higher State Council [HSC] informing it that it was grouped with a political team composed of the National Liberation Front and the Ennahda Movement. The RCD announced after that its refusal to participate in the second round of dialogue with the HSC and explained that it was up to every party to decide which alliances it hoped to make.

Egypt

Defense Ministry 'Source' Explains Tourist Bus Incident

NC2505170793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—An official Defense Ministry source stated that at around 0430 today, a bus speeded across the border guard checkpoint south of Aswan. The guard on duty warned the driver to stop, but he did not respond and instead accelerated to clear the checkpoint.

The area is accustomed to seeing infiltration and smuggling attempts, the source added, so the guard, growing suspicious, was compelled to fire at the tires to stop the bus. When the bus stopped, it was seen that it was transporting a group of foreign tourists, some of them slightly hurt.

Tourists in Stable Condition

NC2605113193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Badrawi Hospital Director Dr. Husam Badrawi has stated that the three Australian tourists who were injured in a shooting incident south of Aswan yesterday are in stable condition and will be discharged in three days at the latest. He added that a team of senior medical professors and surgeons from Cairo University are treating the three tourists and that they have done everything possible for them.

The three tourists were injured when the bus they were riding in from Aswan to Abu Sunbul came under fire when a border guard signalled to the driver to stop. The driver sped up and the guard opened fire on the bus' tires. The three tourists were injured by the bullets.

Arrest of Soldiers Denied

NC2605105393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—A responsible Defense Ministry source has denied a report published in a daily newspaper today [not further specified] about the arrest of the border guard force officer and the three soldiers who were compelled yesterday to fire on a tourist bus south of Aswan.

Describing the report as baseless, the source said that the force had to carry out its task in this region, which is subject to security search measures, and that the bus driver failed to heed the force's warning to stop. The source added that the force personnel correctly carried out their task.

Death Sentence for 1, Life for 3 for Killing Officer

NC2505135493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 25 May (MENA)—The High State Security Court in al-Fayyum passed a death sentence against the first defendant in the assassination of state security officer Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ala', issued life sentences with hard labor against three defendants, and acquitted three others. At its hearing today, the court dropped the case against some defendants who died.

The High State Security Court convened this morning under Counselor Ahmad 'Izzat al-'Ishmawi. The session, lasting only six minutes, convened under strict security. At the outset, Counselor al-'Ishmawi read the verdict pronouncing the execution of Mursi Ramadan Muhammad, first defendant in the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ala' in al-Fayyum. The verdict was unanimously approved and the court heard the view of the mufti of the republic. The verdict includes life sentences with hard labor for defendants Nur Mahmud Ramadan, Ahmad Salim 'Ali Kahk, and his brother Muhammad Salim 'Ali Kahk. The court acquitted defendant Sayyid Khalid Mahmud, Rajab Muhammad 'Abd-al-Raziq, and Ibrahim 'abd-al-Tawwab Mursi. The charges against defendants Khalifah Mahmud Ramadan and Muhammad Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im were dropped because they died.

'Extremists' Kill 3 Soldiers at Compound Near Cairo

NC2505154693 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 25 (AFP)—Muslim extremists on Tuesday killed three Egyptian soldiers at a military supply compound south of here in the first such attack in a year of fundamentalist violence, police said.

The attackers sought to seize weapons from the compound at al-Hawamidiyah, in Cairo's southern suburbs, they added.

Fundamentalists have struck at police since violence surged in March 1992, but not at military targets.

Security Source Denies Report

NC2505212093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—A responsible security source has denied an AFP report today that an Armed Forces camp in al-Hawamidiyah was attacked.

The source stressed that the report is completely unfounded. He said a schemer dictated the report to the news agency.

The security source stated that the Interior Ministry issues statements about the facts and dimensions of any incident as soon as it occurs.

AFP and other foreign radio and television stations reported today that extremists attacked an Army camp in al-Hawamidiyah and killed three soldiers while trying to seize weapons.

60 Palestinian Detainees Reportedly Held Without Trial

NC2605111493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 May 93 p 9

[Report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im: "Believe it or Not: Sixty Palestinians Have Been Detained in Egypt for 30 Months"]

[Excerpts] We are accustomed to hearing about strikes in prison by Egyptian detainees. But it is not natural—it is odd—to hear about a strike by Palestinian detainees in Egyptian prisons.

How can Egypt claim that it seeks to solve the Palestinian issue and call for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories when it detains Palestinians living in Egypt on the pretext of supporting the Palestinian intifadah?

The bitter truth, which stuns us and makes our hearts bleed, is that 60 Palestinians have been living in dark cells under detention in the Mazra'at Turah Prison for two and a half years, not for any crime they committed, but because they belong to five Palestinian organizations that reject the peace talks to allegedly solve the Palestinian issue. These organizations are: The Islamic Jihad Movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Hizballah (Palestine), the Arab Liberation Front, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Most of these detainees have lived in Egypt since 1967 and some of them are married to Egyptian women and have not been charged with violating Egypt's security.

The story of those Palestinians began during the Gulf war. Because the Palestinians' supported Iraq, the authorities began detaining Palestinians living in Egypt in September 1990. The first to be detained were members of the Arab Liberation Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a faction that supports Iraq. The charges leveled against them were not that they violated Egypt's security or even supported Iraq's position, but that they supported the Palestinian intifadah with money and weapons from Egypt. In October 1990, the campaign of arrests extended to members of the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine. The charge against them was that they too supported the Palestinian intifadah. [passage omitted]

These detainees have been in prison for two and a half years without trial. In this time, they secured scores of court orders for their release. Every time they secured an order, they were transferred to a police station and a new detention order was issued against them. [passage omitted]

Strange that the state security department tells them the PLO does not want them to be released, because they opposed the peace talks, prompting them to hate their Palestinian brothers in the PLO. When these detainees sent a letter to the president, state security officers told them this would not help. [passage omitted]

In light of this injustice, the Palestinian detainees went on hunger strike last week. The prosecution and prison investigation department officers visited them on the fourth day of their strike. They were pressured and promises were made that state security department officials would visit them to discuss their release. Based on these promises, they suspended their strike, once more hoping to be released from prison. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Denies Links With 'Extremists'

PM2405095093 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 May 93 pp 31, 34

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood Supreme Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] There is an accusation that the extremist groups emerged from the Brotherhood's cloak. What truth is there in this? And what is the present relationship between the Brotherhood and the extremists?

[Abu-al-Nasr] To begin with, the phrase "emerged from the Brotherhood's cloak" has no real meaning. Such phrases are used by remnants of the Marxists and so-called secularists for the sake of deception and distortion. Suffice it to say that the investigations launched into all the violent incidents which have occurred since we left our prisons and over the past 20 years have

irrefutably proved that none of the Muslim brothers—at any level—has any suspect link with the perpetrators of these incidents.

['Ajjaj] Do you not think that you raise the question of your lack of legitimacy very often, although the government grants you a margin of freedom of movement through which to exercise all aspects of political action like the other existing political parties? What does the Brotherhood lack specifically?

[Abu-al-Nasr] First of all we are legitimate and do not lack legitimacy. But we demand legal recognition that gives us the right to move safely, reassures people about us, prevents the security organs from pursuing us and practicing their repressive measures against us, and allows us to publish newspapers, magazines, and leaflets and to hold mass meetings and make contacts with various people... and many other things. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] How do you assess the intervention of some religious and intellectual figures to mediate between the government and the Islamic groups?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We do not know much about the Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman issue. Nor do we talk about individuals. We discuss a doctrine, ideology, and a program. We have nothing to do with the so-called Jihad Organization or the Islamic Group.

['Ajjaj] Were you among the quarters with which a U.S. newspaper said the U.S. Embassy in Cairo held a dialogue and made contacts?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Any dialogue should be between us and the sons of our nation and homeland. As for foreign newspapers or representatives of foreign political organizations, if they carry cards [bitaqat] from local government quarters, we receive them and answer their questions. And we inform everyone of our beliefs and our correct understanding of Islam, the Islamic movement, our program, and our view of various matters. All this happens openly and under the eyes and ears and with the knowledge of the Egyptian authorities. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Is there any organizational or ideological relationship between the Brotherhood and the [Sudanese] National [Islamic] Front, the [Algerian Islamic] Salvation Front, or the [Tunisian] Ennahda movement? And what truth is there in the talk of an international fundamentalist organization running all these groups?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The ideological relationship cannot be barred, as we all rely on the Koran, the pure Sunnah, and then the books and concepts of Imam al-Banna, may God be pleased with him. But every country may have its own circumstances requiring a program and a method to suit it.

['Ajjaj] How would you assess the situation in Sudan under its present regime? And do you have any observations about the situation in Algeria?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Fraternal Sudan's relations with Egypt are eternal, and we pray to God to grant it success and its leadership correctness. We also pray for Algeria and the other Islamic states and ask God to protect all from seditions and crises.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe there is a foreign role in supporting terrorism in Egypt, in view of the Egyptian accusations against Sudan and Iran?

[Abu-al-Nasr] That is something the state can determine with the intelligence organs it has. However, we say that some isolated incidents may be implemented by foreign hands, like exploding a bomb here or there, or shooting someone. As for situations in which large and dense gatherings take part, it is impossible to incite such gatherings unless there are effective local political reasons. [passage omitted]

Terrorism Poll: 97 Percent See No Threat to Stability

NC2605094393

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 20 May publishes an approximately 2,000-word report on a public opinion poll on terrorism in Egypt. The poll was conducted for the paper by the "Research and Information Center at Dar al-Tahrir Publishing House," which publishes AL-JUMHURIYAH. The paper notes that researchers Salwa Muhiy-al-Din, 'Azzah Shalabi, Saniyah al-Bahhat, Nadiyah Amin, and Muhammad al-'Akkawi chose a "random sample of 500 citizens representing most factions and strata in Egyptian society, including farmers, civil servants, professionals, students, artisans, and housewives." The paper says the sample was chosen to "represent various age groups, from 18 to 88, and to cover all areas in the republic, including Greater Cairo (Cairo, al-Jizah, and al- Qalubiyah), al-Sharqiyah, Asyut, al-Gharbiyah, Damietta, and al- Daqahliyah Governorates."

First, respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following: "Terrorist operations carried out at random against innocent people and vital installations have recently increased to a point where they threaten the stability of Egyptian society. What do you think? Some 3 percent agreed, while 97 percent disagreed."

Second: "What are the factors that help to increase violence and terrorist operations?" Respondents were asked to choose from eight answers.

1. Some 33 percent said the extremists' erroneous interpretation and understanding of religion.

2. Forty-five percent said socioeconomic problems (unemployment, price hikes, housing crisis, and rising cost of marriage).

3. Some 25 percent said cultural problems, such as the cultural vacuum, deteriorating standards of education, and a general decline in values.

4. Some 23 percent said corruption in some sectors.

5. Ten percent said some political forces' and parties' encouragement of extremists.

6. Some 23 percent said the absence of a national plan to utilize the energy of young people.

7. Twenty-one percent blamed the weakness and absence of the role of religious institutions.

8. Five percent said there were other reasons."

The third question was: "Do you think the political parties, professional associations, and popular institutions have met their huge responsibility in combating terrorism? Twenty percent said yes, 80 percent no." Those answering no were asked why."

1. Twenty percent said these organizations failed to realize the danger that terrorist operations pose to the country's future.

2. Fourteen percent said some of them directly or indirectly encourage terrorism.

3. Nineteen percent said some parties believe this will help them to reach power.

4. Some 45 percent said they are not popular politically."

The fourth question was: "The external role in fomenting and financing terrorism in Egypt is certain. Who stands to benefit most from instability?

1. Some 49 percent said Israel and the Zionist movement.

2. Thirty-two percent said the Iranian regime.

3. Eleven percent said the Sudanese regime.

4. Eight percent thought other parties."

The fifth and last question was: "There are various ways to confront and eliminate extremism and terrorism. What methods do you believe are suitable?

1. Sixteen percent said the strong security confrontation of extremists and terrorists.

2. Seven percent said enacting extraordinary laws to confront terrorism.

3. Some 42 percent said speeding up a solution of the economic problem, particularly unemployment.

4. Twenty-four percent said solving problems in crowded and poorly planned neighborhoods and developing governorates.

5. Ten percent said allowing freedom to form parties and publish newspapers.

6. Nine percent said permitting the formation of a religious party.

7. Twenty percent said increasing popular participation in the decisionmaking process.

8. Six percent said forming a national front grouping all antiterrorism political forces.

9. Eleven percent said enhancing the efficiency of religious institutions and the mass media to combat extremism.

10. Some 21 percent said promoting solidarity and social justice.

11. Two percent said other means."

Paper Reports on Labor Party Elections, Reorganization

NC2605100193

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 21 May publishes on page 3 an approximately 2,500-word report by Tal'at Ramih on the "first meeting of the Labor Party's Executive Committee." The meeting was held on 18 May chaired by Ibrahim Shukri, who was "reelected unanimously and uncontested as party leader during the Sixth General Party Conference on 6 and 7 May 1993."

The paper says that at the beginning of the meeting, Shukri spoke at length about the main junctures in the party's history. He then announced the start of elections for the posts of deputy party leader, secretary general, members of the Political and Executive Bureaus, and Executive Committee secretary. The new chief editor of the party's AL-SHA'B newspaper also was chosen.

Shukri, according to the paper, nominated Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad as deputy party leader, and Murad won unanimously. Several members then nominated AL-SHA'B Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn to the post of party secretary general. He also won unanimously. Husayn then delivered a speech in which he emphasized that "the Labor Party's militant ideological and political line will be maintained." He surprised attendants by asking and insisting that he be relieved of his post as chief editor of AL-SHA'B. The paper does not say who replaced Husayn as chief editor.

According to the paper, the floor then opened for nominations to the Political Bureau, which consists of eight members of the Executive Committee, the party leader, his deputy, and the party secretary general. The following eight members were elected by secret ballot: Dr. Ahmad al-Mahdi, Khalid al-Za'farani, Dr. Salah 'Abd-al-Mit'al, retired Major General Tal'at Musallam, retired Police Major General Kamal Hafiz, Mahfuz 'Azzam, Muhammad Abu-al- Futuh, and Muhammad Mutawalli 'Awad.

The paper says that the Executive Bureau members also were nominated and elected uncontested. They are:

"1. 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, assistant secretary general and secretary for organizational affairs (assisted by engineer Ahmad Shukri).

"2. Yusuf Kamal, assistant secretary general and secretary for financial affairs (assisted by Dr. 'Abdallah Hilal).

"3. Fayiz Muhammad 'Ali, assistant secretary general for legal affairs.

"4. Dr. Majdi Qarqar, assistant secretary general and secretary for trade union affairs.

"5. Naji al-Shihabi, assistant secretary general and secretary for elections affairs.

" 'Abdallah Abu-al-Hasan was elected as secretary of the Executive Committee."

Interior Ministry Seizes Religious Cassettes

NC2605081093 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 May 93 p 1

[Report by Hasan al-Shayib]

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry's art production investigation department [mabahith al-mussanafat al-fanniyah] has foiled attempts to flood the market with audio and videocassettes of talks and sermons by fugitive extremist leaders, notably al-Jihad Organization Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. The cassettes incite violence and sectarian sedition and attack Arab governments and establishments.

Seven suspects in Banha and Suez were seized in possession of 2,134 audiocassettes, 11 videocassettes, and 1,600 copies of a religious book unlicensed for circulation by the Islamic Research Academy. The suspects had previously been arrested for extremist activity. [passage omitted]

Amnesty International Criticizes Security Forces Procedures

NC2505130793 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 25 May 93

[Embargoed by AFP until 0001 GMT 26 May]

[Text] London, May 26 (AFP)—The security forces in Egypt appear to have been given "a licence to kill with impunity," Amnesty International said in a report on Wednesday [26 May] which drew attention to "grave human rights violations."

The human rights watchdog said the Egyptian government's crackdown on Islamic militants had led to a "dramatic increase" in human rights abuse.

Last year saw an "alarming" number of incidents in which members of Islamic militant groups were killed allegedly while attempting to escape arrest, Amnesty said.

The security forces had reacted to increased killings of police officers and others by armed opposition groups "with frightening brutality."

Amnesty criticised mass arrests, torture, unfair political trials and death sentences. It said thousands of people had been rounded up and detained without charge or trial under emergency legislation, and some suspects were as young as 15.

It said detainees had died in custody since late last year.

Musa, South Africa's Botha Begin Official Talks

NC2505174693 Cairo MENA in English 1648 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 25 (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and South Africa opened at the Foreign Ministry here tonight with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa leading the Egyptian side while his South African counterpart Roelof Botha led his country's side.

The two sides are expected to discuss the latest developments in South Africa in the light of the South African Government's steps to establish a democratic system there.

The talks will also cover African issues and relations between Egypt and South Africa.

Comment After Talks

NC2505204793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a 90-minute meeting with South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha this evening. Musa said they discussed developments in South Africa in light of the positive steps toward democracy there. He said Egypt is watching the developments with interest before the African summit convenes in Cairo.

Noting the imminent end of apartheid, Musa said South Africa is one of the main items on the African summit agenda. He said an end to apartheid would remove an obstacle to cooperation between the African countries and South Africa. Musa said the talks also dealt with economic and political issues, with the two countries agreeing to keep in touch.

The South African foreign minister said his country appreciates Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU when the African continent is encountering enormous challenges. He stressed that cooperation among all African countries is necessary to face these challenges. He stressed the important role of the private sector in the development process and the importance of respecting human rights and democracy.

Commenting on acts of violence in South Africa, Botha stated the need for all parties to cooperate with the government to end these acts. He said a political solution can end violence in the country. Botha also discussed

South Africa's efforts to establish a democratic system and its contacts with political parties to discuss establishing an interim council in the next few weeks. This council, he said, would pave the way for a general election and for a provisional government to lay down an interim constitution in April.

Information Minister Comments on Mubarak Talks in Eritrea

NC2505141493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1216 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Asmera, 25 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held expanded talks with Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki during his two-hour visit to Asmera. On the Egyptian side the talks were attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the president's office. On the Eritrean side the talks were held by Foreign Minister Mahmud Sharifu, Interior Minister 'Ali Sayyid 'Abdallah, and Information Minister Muhammad Sa'id [names and titles as received]. The talks lasted for approximately one hour and were followed by a 30-minute private meeting between the two presidents.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak visited Asmera to express his eagerness to join the Eritrean people in their independence celebrations. He added that during the talks, the Eritrean president expressed the Eritrean Government and people's appreciation for President Mubarak's initiative in visiting the country and attending its independence celebrations. He also expressed gratitude to Egypt for its historic role in backing the struggle of the Eritrean people until they gained their independence. Al-Sharif pointed out that the talks between Mubarak and Afewerki dealt with cooperation between the two countries to set the wheels of development and reconstruction in the new country in motion. Mubarak stressed that Egypt will fully cooperate with Eritrea and will offer Egyptian expertise to help train Eritrean cadres in all fields of activity so that they can take part in rebuilding their country.

Al-Sharif added that the Mubarak-Afewerki talks also touched on political, trade, economic, technical, and media cooperation between Egypt and Eritrea. The two president also discussed a number of African issues and the topics to be examined at the African summit scheduled to be held at the end of June in Cairo, which the Eritrean president will attend for the first time.

Editor Criticizes U.S., European Bosnia Policy

NC2505201293

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 22 May 1993 on page one carries a 2,000-word article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' entitled: "Who is the Culprit Participating in the Tragedy of the Bosnian People?"

Nafi' expresses the view: "Europe bears a historic responsibility for events in Bosnia-Herzegovina because—despite its suffering at the hands of racist Nazism and the clamor for human rights—Europe has failed to come to the rescue of a European nation facing genocide for ethnic, religious, and racist reasons."

Nafi' criticizes Europe for failing to intervene effectively in Bosnia-Herzegovina or to lift the ban on weapons to the Bosnian Muslims, a position that he sees as a "crime of collaboration through silence and inaction with the Serb criminals, who have outdone the Nazis in their atrocities against the people of Bosnia."

The chief editor also criticizes the U.S. position on Bosnia- Herzegovina, writing: "The position of U.S. President Clinton on the tragedy of the Bosnian people is no less ambiguous and contradictory than the European. Clinton blames Europe for failing to intervene to save the Bosnian people and for objecting to his military options to end the massacres in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But the U.S. President announces that he will not go to the battlefield without European assistance and without a resolution from the UN Security Council. This means that Clinton is virtually retracting everything he announced in his election program on U.S. policy on the Bosnian tragedy."

Nafi' concludes by describing the U.S. and European position as "a great shock" to those who believed the United States and Europe acted during the Gulf war to promote "principles concomitant with the new international order" rather than to "serve their own interests."

Kurdish Currency To Spell 'Danger' for Iraqi Unity

NC2505203793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Iraq's Kurds and the Dinar Crisis"]

[Text] Since the Iraqi Kurds rebelled two years ago, the future of the Kurds in Iraq, Turkey, and Iran has been a controversial topic. In the past two years, an international position crystallized, calling for protecting the Kurds in north Iraq and establishing safe havens for them under UN patronage. This did not mean helping them to establish an independent entity, because this would harm Iraq's regional unity and regional stability in general. The international stance prevented some Kurdish branches from achieving their ambitions.

The issue raises questions. Look at the crisis of the Iraqi 25- dinar banknote; the Baghdad authorities invalidated it and prevented the Kurds from changing it for new notes. The Kurds now have no currency to cash, so they thought of creating their own. This would be a serious affair, because a Kurdish currency would further entrench secession from the central authority and help to establish an independent economy eventually. The danger increases because the Kurds in Iraq have their own political institutions—administrative government

and parliament—formed a year ago. Undoubtedly, the Kurds' difficult economic situation may prompt some countries and international forces to assist them to establish their own bank and government currency. Such a situation would first and foremost infringe Iraq's sovereignty and long-term regional security.

Assistant Foreign Minister Leaves on Visit to Albania

NC2305144293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak left Cairo for Albania this afternoon on a two-day visit.

In a predeparture statement, Mubarak said that he will hold talks with Albanian officials on international issues, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral ties and ways to consolidate them in the various fields.

He added that an agreement to set up a joint committee cochaired by the foreign ministers of both countries will be signed during the visit. A cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement will also be signed with Albania, he said.

Cairo-Khartoum Phone Call Prompts Telephone Restrictions

NC2205074393 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 May 93 p 1

[Report by Sami Fahmi]

[Excerpt] AL-AHALI has learned that the severance of telephone links between Egypt and Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sudan was prompted by a telephone call between Cairo and Khartoum that revealed important information about the Egyptian extremists' links with Sudan. The telephone call was made by a subscriber in the western district of Cairo and revealed that extremists receive their instructions by phone. The security agencies arrested a number of people following the call.

The telephone division of the telecommunications authority has issued strict instructions to officials at telephone exchanges to place certain restrictions on calls with the five states mentioned above. The instructions provide for registering the caller's personal data and for prohibiting the transfer of calls between these states and telephones in Egyptian homes.

Sudan

SPLA Faction Comments on Referendum 'Deal'

AB2505190593 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 25 May 93

[From the Focus on Africa program]

[Text] Just when it seemed as if the Sudanese peace process was coming to a standstill, the Nasser-based faction of the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] rebel movement say they have made a deal with the Khartoum government to hold a referendum in the south. Last week, talks in Abuja with the John Garang's wing of the SPLA broke down and yesterday the government accused them of breaking a cease-fire but parallel talks have been going on in Nairobi with their rivals known as SPLA United and today they claim a lot of progress has been made on the issue of independence for southern Sudan. The Nairobi spokesman is Lam Akol, and on the line, Robin White asked him how they could hold a referendum when there is a war going on.

[Begin recording] [Akol] The was is going on because the successive governments in Khartoum have consistently refused to grant the people of southern Sudan the right of self-determination as exercised through a referendum. So, if the government in Khartoum grants this right, I don't see any reason why any southerner should continue to fight. So, the war will come to an end and then the arrangements will be made so that they exercise this inalienable right of theirs.

[White] But is any agreement that you reach worth anything without John Garang?

[Akol] John Garang is just a person. John Garang is what he is because of the people who are following him.

[White] Don't you think that the north might be just playing with you in the south. It is talking to you on the one hand, reaching [an] agreement with you, and talking to John Garang about something completely different. Aren't they just playing with you?

[Akol] I cannot judge now that they are playing with us. As they say, the quality of the pudding is in the tasting. So, well, any agreement can be paper if both sides do not respect it but we are assuming that if they put their signature on this agreement they should respect it, otherwise the consequences, they know, because we are not surrendering. We are signing an agreement which has certain provisions and certain precautions and certain guarantees. So, if one party violates that, it will not run away with it.

[White] What is going to happen now?

[Akol] What is going to happen now is that we are going to have an adjournment of the talks. Both sides will go back to their principals to consult on the main issue that has now remained unresolved, and that is, how long will the interim period be. How many years? And this is the point where we could not agree here. Once agreement is reached on that point, we think that the other issues are very minor indeed.

[White] Interim period before what?

[Akol] The interim period leading to the referendum.

[White] How long do you want the interim period to be?

[Akol] We have suggested two years.

[White] And what do they say?

[Akol] The government is suggesting between 10 and 15. So, we think that this difference is too big and we need to come down on a figure that is reasonable to the people.

[White] But if the Khartoum government is only prepared to offer a referendum in 15 years' time, it doesn't sound as though they have conceded very much.

[Akol] Yes, this is why we did not agree on this point. So, they are going back to consult with their government because they have seen our argument as to why the period should be two years. On the light of that, if they are serious, definitely, they will come down. So, we cannot judge right now here that they are not serious. [end recording]

RCC Official Comments on Hala'ib Issue

EA2505215093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1744 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and minister of energy and mining, Brigadier Salah al-Din Karrar discussed the Egyptian provocations in [the] Hala'ib area, confirming the National Salvation Revolution's full support to its citizens.

Brig. [al-Din] Karrar met here [on] Tuesday [25 May] the chieftain of [the] Bushariyyah tribe who has been living in [the] Hala'ib area for many years. The RCC member has asserted the revolution's support to the Bushariyyah tribe in general and to Hala'ib province's citizens in particular and its concern with their issues. He directed the concerned authorities to dig wells in the Bushariyyah tribe's area along [the] Atbarah river, Northern State. [passage omitted]

Minister on Military Intervention in South, Hala'ib

EA2505220693 Khartoum SUNA in French 1610 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA)—Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, has reiterated Sudan's rejection of any international military intervention in south Sudan, saying the Sudanese themselves were capable of reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict there. He added that Sudan would welcome aid packages from the international community.

Dr. Abu Salih indicated that the Sudanese Government had made genuine efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement of the southern Sudan problem and referred to the peace talks with the rebels. The head of Sudanese diplomacy indicated that foreign powers had obstructed the signing of peace agreement with the rebels.

Asked about the current visit to Kenya of the American ambassador to Sudan, Dr. Abu Salih said the American diplomat had informed him that he would try to persuade the rebel factions to reach a peace agreement with the Sudanese Government and to end tribal fighting.

On the border conflict in the Sudanese region of Hala'ib, Dr. Abu Salih said Sudan rejected the Egyptian regime's policy of using force and that Sudan would not give up a single inch of territory, adding that the country's international policy viewed border areas as ethnic interpenetration and integration areas as opposed to conflict for smuggling areas. Dr. Abu Salih said: Sudan wants the situation in Hala'ib to return to that of October 1992 and that the matters is then put to "arbitration". He said he hoped that the next African summit would settle the dispute and improve relations between the two countries.

Government: Fighting With SPLA 'Imminent'

AB2605091093 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 24 May 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Less than a week after the collapse of the Sudan peace talks in Abuja, the Sudanese Government says a resumption of full- scale fighting with John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels is imminent. The two sides were supposed to be observing a cease-fire while the talks were on, and it looked as though it might even hold until the two sides met again next month. But as Alfred Taban reports in this telex from Khartoum, the government is accusing the SPLA of going back on their word:

Sudanese Government forces have accused the SPLA of violating the cease-fire between government troops and the SPLA which was declared in the third week of March. Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, the official spokesman of the Armed Forces was quoted last night on state television, as saying that on 18 May—the day the Abuja peace talks ended—a group of rebels of the mainstream faction of the SPLA planted landmines on the Juba-Yei road in Equatoria State in southern Sudan. Two lorries were destroyed, a soldier killed, and many others wounded. He also said that on 20 May, the rebels shelled government troops' positions at Loka about 70 miles southwest of southern Sudan's main town Juba, killing one soldier and injuring others. But the attack was repulsed.

Gen. Uwaydah then said that a day later, the SPLA ambushed government forces making their way to Loka where fighting continued for an hour before the Army fought off the attackers. The spokesman added that although Garang has declared he is committed to the cease-fire, this repeated aggression by the SPLA clearly indicates his inability to control his forces, his lack of commitment to what he has said. Gen. Uwaydah stressed that the Army will fight back to protect the lives of its soldiers and innocent citizens. [end recording]

Well today, the Garang faction issued a statement on the government allegation that they had violated the cease-fire. As you have heard Khartoum say there was an SPLA attack on Loka last Thursday [20 May] after mines had been laid on the road between Yei and Juba. Robin White asked SPLA London spokesman Dr. Deng, how he responded to the Sudanese Government's allegation.

[Begin recording] [Deng] It is not true. We believe in cease-fire. We met it, we extended it. And it is Khartoum which actually deliberately violated the cease-fire in many ways.

[White] So you're saying that the government started this [word indistinct]?

[Deng] Of course, of course. Government actually has said many times that the final assault and final destruction of the SPLA is coming.

[White] But then, these claims are very specific. They said you have attacked particular places like Loka, on particular days.

[Deng] They are lying. They were not there. They moved to Loka a month ago and we did not attack them. We tell them it is wrong to move and occupy areas which you did not occupy.

[White] But have you attacked them now at Loka?

[Deng] No, we have not attacked them. No. They just want now [pauses].... They are preparing to attack us, they are planning to attack us and this is the intention which 'Umar al-Bashir had announced, that we have to destroy SPLA and [the] final assault is coming.

[White] So what are you going to do? Are you going to fight back now or you are going to continue with the cease-fire?

[Deng] First, we want to continue the cease-fire. And we will ask the international community to come in and stop the National Islamic Front from killing our people. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on South

EA2505214093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Sudan has reiterated its commitment to a peaceful solution to the problem of the south and its continued observance of the cease-fire so long as the other side also observes it in accordance with the conditions already declared by the government. Sudan has also declared its commitment to attending the next round of Abuja talks on the date set for them. These statements are contained in a press communique issued by the Foreign Ministry today.

The communique says all the states of the south are now peaceful and require stepped-up quantities of relief aid, especially for victims directly affected by the war. The communique reiterates the government's commitment to transporting relief materials in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations and the voluntary organizations to those deserving or needing it in all parts of the south. The communique appeals to the United Nations, fraternal and friendly states, and Sudanese and foreign voluntary organizations to discharge their responsibilities of transporting relief aid, while the government remains committed to the program of Operation Lifeline and the agreements concluded with voluntary and humanitarian organizations.

Al-Mirghani: Constitutional Conference 'Only Way'

PM2605110693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 May 93 p 4

[Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri report: "Al-Mirghani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Failure of Abuja Negotiations Was Expected; No Solution for Sudan Without Constitutional Conference"]

[Text] Kuwait—In his first reaction to the failure of the Abuja negotiations Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, said that "there was no hope in the first place that the negotiations would produce the desired peace or an agreement safeguarding the country's unity or easing its problems, for a fundamental and basic reason, namely when the [National Islamic] Front seized power and undermined democracy it announced that it had sped up its coup against democracy to prevent implementation of the agreement we concluded with Dr. John Garang on 16 November 1988, which was known as the Sudanese peace agreement. This agreement was and is still in essence the hope for attaining peace and safeguarding Sudan's unity. Proof of this is that at the recent Abuja meeting the Nigerian mediator derived from it his initiative, which the Front's government rejected."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-Mirghani added: We praise Dr. Garang for his delegation's adherence in the Abuja negotiations to what was agreed by all the Democratic National Grouping's forces in what was called the Nairobi declaration, which secured Sudan's unity, pluralist democracy, respect for all religions, and equality among all citizens, provided that all this is made into laws and endorsed via a constitutional conference comprising all the people of Sudan. But the Front that rules Sudan completely rejects the idea of convening a constitutional conference agreed to by the people of Sudan. It even rejected it before its coup against democracy. It also rejects pluralist democracy, adopts military solutions rather than peaceful solutions, and rejects all influential entities in Sudan and does not recognize their existence or right to participation. After all this it is trembling with fear of the possibility of international intervention and urges us—after having denied us all our rights—to reject it. It attacks us with lies and slanders and the people are now fed up with the repetition of these lies on any and all pretexts.

They used our disagreement with them as a pretext to confiscate our money and property. He went on: "The truth is that we do not approve of military intervention in Sudan and believe that the only way is to convene a constitutional national conference grouping all the people of Sudan under UN supervision in order to exchange views and reach solutions to the Sudanese people's problems like sensible people. It is the only way to strengthen the pillars of democracy and protect the country's unity. Thus it is unreasonable and illogical for us to reject this international support, which we consider in itself a great achievement, and international recognition that what we agreed among themselves is the correct thing.

"If the Front's government rejects that, let it bear the resonsibility for its tyranny. If the Al-Turabi government fears international intervention, it must announce now its acceptance of the idea of convening a constitutional conference and comply with pluralist democracy. That is better and more honorable for it. Let it avoid that situation's being imposed on it."

Concerning his visit to the State of Kuwait, Al-Mirghani said: "We were pleased during our visit to the fraternal State of Kuwait to meet with the country's amir, the heir apparent and prime minister, the National Assembly speaker, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and officials... and the meetings are still continuing."

These meetings dealt with all Sudanese, Arab, and Islamic issues, and views were identical. They included the peace issue and the future of government in Sudan.

We encountered support for and understanding of all we raised in this context, including the constitutional conference idea and the mechanism for achieving it.

And we thank the brothers in Kuwait for their appreciation of the Sudanese people's position, which supports the Kuwaiti people's issues. This is in the light of the position of Al-Turabi's front, which sides with aggression alone. We called on the brothers in Kuwait to remove the barriers between the two peoples and support the people of Sudan in their defense of their freedom and democracy. We hope this visit will produce positive results in terms of consolidating the pillars of relations between the two peoples and increasing the Sudanese presence in Kuwait, as it reinforces these ties.

Bahrain

Iran's Velayati Says Talks 'Fruitful,' Departs

JN2505152193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Manama, 25 May (WAKH)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati today left Manama for Kuwait following a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of his tour of Gulf Cooperation Council states.

During the visit, the Iranian minister delivered a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The message dealt with bilateral ties and ways to improve them, current developments in the region, and Islamic and world issues.

Velayati was seen off by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, senior officials, and Iranian Ambassador to Bahrain Javad Tork-Abadi.

In a statement to WAKH, Velayati said his talks in Bahrain were very positive, pointing out that he was happy to meet with the amir and the prime minister of Bahrain. He said he discussed with their highnesses progress in the good ties between the two countries and peoples and means to expand prospects for cooperation between them, several current Gulf, Islamic, Arab, and world issues, and the exchange of visits by officials from the two countries which would benefit them both.

He said his talks with the Bahraini foreign minister were important and dealt specifically with the Middle East question and the tragic conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Iranian minister said his talks marked a good step on the path of bolstering ties between Bahrain and Iran.

Concluding his statement, he said he is satisfied with the good and fruitful results of his visit to Bahrain on the level of Bahraini-Iranian ties and strengthening cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Kuwait

Iran's Velayati Arrives From Manama

LD2505123893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 May, KUNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in the country today from Manama for an official two-day visit as part of his tour of Gulf Cooperation Council countries. [passage omitted]

Overview of Issues

LD2505160493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 May (KUNA)—Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati is expected in Kuwait today at the end of a tour of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, amid Gulf expectations that he might be bringing some practical Iranian goodwill initiatives.

Some Gulf observers confirm that unless Velayati's visit brings practical initiatives, it will not do anything to promote present relations between the GCC and Iran.

Observers believe that the GCC states would like to see Iran reconsider its occupation of the three United Arab Emirates islands, whether by finding a way to solve this issue by bilateral negotiations or through international arbitration. [passage omitted]

The GCC also would like to see Iran participating in putting a stop to the increasing Iranian infiltration operations in the GCC states, which observers believe pose a security concern.

Observers confirm that if Velayati's visit does nothing in this direction, it will be seen as an Iranian diplomatic attempt to reduce any negative effect that the recent visit of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the area might have had on Iran's relationship with its neighbors and to hinder the possible advance toward implementing the Damasacus Declaration. [passage omitted]

Observers believe that the dangers of instability in the Gulf area are not external, that all the area needs is a shift in political thinking by the Gulf regimes, and that paying more attention to economic and social development and mutual respect for sovereignty should overcome the ambitions of hegemony and geographical expansion, particularly on the part of Iran and Iraq.

Observers believe that this trend might gain momentum in the second term of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is favored in the elections early next month. [passage omitted]

The announcement about a possible visit to Iran by Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the voicing of the desire to solve the problems between Iran and the United Arab Emirates through dialogue indicate that the Velayati tour might produce useful results for both sides.

Comments on Results of Tour

LD2505173293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] On the last leg of his trip to Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, Foreign Minister Velayati arrived in Kuwait today.

In an interview with Mr. Velayati in Kuwait this afternoon, we asked him about the outcome of his recent visits to those countries. He said:

[Begin Velayati recording] All of the trips and meetings and talks with Arab Persian Gulf states were welcomed by all of those countries. They welcomed the results achieved in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab

Emirates. Particularly in Qatar, we talked about cooperation between OPEC countries to confront what certain Western countries have recently tried to do, that is, increase taxes on oil consumption.

In Bahrain, normalized cooperation between Iran and Arab Persian Gulf littoral states was comprehensively discussed. The two sides expressed dissatisfaction about the fact that regional cooperation between Iran and those Arab countries has ceased. It was agreed that the subject of cooperation between Persian Gulf littoral states, as a fundamental basis for regional cooperation and security, should once again be revived and discussed at gatherings between Persian Gulf countries in the future. Iran's exact role in such cooperation was stressed.

I will hold talks with the amir, crown prince, and parliamentary speaker of Kuwait tomorrow. [end recording]

Meets With Foreign Minister

NC2605065293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in Kuwait, met and talked with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah last night. During the meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed bilateral relations and regional and Islamic problems and expressed satisfaction with the positive developments in Tehran-Kuwait relations and in relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

Remarking on this, the Kuwaiti foreign minister welcomed Velayati's successful visit to the Persian Gulf countries and expressed pleasure that Iran and the United Arab Emirates have decided to continue talks on their joint problems.

The foreign ministers also discussed the situation of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the continued Serbian aggression. In relation to this, Velayati said: The plan that has been put forth recently by some Security Council permanent members is tantamount to rewarding the criminal Serb aggressors. He added: This plan is strongly rejected by Iran, Islamic countries, and Bosnia-Herzegovina and is condemned by the Islamic world.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister acknowledged Velayati's remarks and expressed Kuwait's readiness for active and collective participation with Islamic countries in confronting the Serbs.

Velayati arrived in Kuwait yesterday on the last leg of his tour of Persian Gulf littoral countries.

Conveys Message to Amir

LD2605115993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati met with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, at noon today and conveyed a verbal message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Welcoming the message from our country's president, the amir of Kuwait referred to the various grounds for the expansion of mutual ties. He added: There are many issues in the region and the world on which the two countries could adopt a unified stand because of their common viewpoint.

Referring to Velayati's fruitful trip to the region, he expressed hope that such visits between Iran and the regional countries will continue.

The two sides also expressed their optimism about various international and regional issues, their criticism of the West for imposing taxes on oil imports, and their disgust for the injustice against the Bosnian Muslims.

Rejecting the new proposal by the four permanent Security Council members on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Velayati said that it is a form of bonus for the Serbian aggressors.

Velayati also met with Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti crown prince, today.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Accuses Western Media of 'Negative Approach'

PM2505151393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 93 pp 1, 4

['Abdallah al-Hajj and 'Umar Jastinyah report: "Prince Nayif: We Respect Human Rights More Than the the Western States Do"]

[Text] Mecca—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has criticized the Western media's attitude toward his country, accusing them of a negative approach to "many ordinary events that might occur in Saudi Arabia just as they might occur in any other country in the world." At a press conference he held yesterday evening in the area of the holy places, he reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to shari'ah in theory and practice. He added: "We respect and apply human rights more than the European and Western states which attack us." He asked: "What about Palestinian human rights and the human rights that are violated daily in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Why do the Western media not talk about them?" He added: "We uphold human rights very confidently and by virtue of our commitment to shari'ah."

The Saudi interior minister believes that the Western media in Europe and the United States "have sinister aims" that are hostile to the Arab and Islamic worlds "and especially hostile to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They mean to undermine the Islamic world (...). Regrettably, we see Arabic-speaking media drawn behind that trend, which, in my view, is under Zionist influence."

Prince Nayif also said: "We are an Islamic state that fully applies the shari'ah to all its affairs. That does not suit some Western media, which magnify any simple or ordinary incident that occurs in Saudi Arabia while bigger incidents occur in their own countries." He cited the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York as an example.

He said that "only what is right prevails. This campaign will not affect us in any way. What matters to us are the Saudi people and the preservation of their interests and welfare." He declared that "the Saudi people support their leadership and government, and we know what is best for them."

He appealed to the Islamic states to help the Saudi Government in controlling the excesses that enable some pilgrims to come to the holy places without fulfilling requirements such as passports and entry visas. He referred to the arrival of such pilgrims the day before yesterday. He stressed that he permitted them entry for pilgrimage "for purely humanitarian reasons." He warned against a repetition, because the Saudi Government would then find itself compelled to apply the laws that normally cover such cases.

Arab Human Rights Group Denounces Government

NC2505132793 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Paris, May 25 (AFP)—An Arab human rights group on Tuesday [25 May] denounced the Saudi government for its crackdown on an Islamic group campaigning against "oppression and injustice."

The Association for Human Rights and Democratic Freedom in the Arab World (ADDHMA) criticised "repressive measures" taken against "hundreds" of Saudis.

There had been a series of "sackings, closures of lawyers' practices and mass arrests over the past two weeks," since seven Saudi intellectuals announced the formation of a Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, it said.

The committee was outlawed by Saudi Arabia's Supreme Council of Ulemas (religious scholars) and the seven—four teachers, two lawyers and a civil servant—were forbidden to work.

The Paris-based ADDHMA also alleged that Riyadh had arrested and jailed hundreds of Christians, mainly Copts, and forbidden them to practice their religion.

The human rights group called on the Saudi government to release all prisoners and for international pressure to help stop "repression and religious discrimination" in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Jibrin Confirms Resignation From Rights Committee

LD2505213293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 25 May (SPA)—We have received the following message from Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jibrin:

Praise be to God alone, and prayers on our prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions. And now to the subject matter: To clarify the truth of the matter in regard of the so-called Committee for the Defense of Human Rights Under Shari'ah [lajnat al-difa' 'an al-huquq al-shari'yah lilinsan], and my links to it, I would like to explain that in the following points:

1. I do not remember hearing anything about this committee until it was announced in foreign radios and questions were raised about it.

2. I do not personally know some of those who signed the statement declaring the establishment of the committee, nor did I meet them about this subject before—only after the announcement of the committee.

3. What the person who called himself the spokesman of the committee has done by announcing the committee and contacting the foreign media is a personal action for which he and those who agreed with him bear responsibility, and I disown it before God.

4. What I used to do was to intercede with those in authority, may God guide them, and offer them advice as we have been accustomed to do with those in charge of our affairs and as is the custom of our shaykhs.

On the basis of the above, I have decided to abandon the membership of that committee that calls itself the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights Under Shari'ah, not to take part in its meetings, and to adhere to what the Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him, told Abi-Hurayra: What you have to do is to listen and obey in your poverty and your prosperity, at your delight or distress, as was retold by Muslim [famous historian of the prophet's sayings], and I adhere to what the guardian of the Muslims' affairs sees in refraining from contravening public interest, and to the opinion of our honorable ulema in this respect. I beseech God to protect our guardians, our ulema, and our country from the scheming of the infidels and to guide our nation to the good of our religion and life. God's prayers and peace be upon Muhammad and his family and companions. Written by 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jibrin.

Number of Pilgrims Totals 935,076 by 24 May

LD2505201393 Riyadh SPA in English 1921 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Jeddah, May 25, SPA—A total number of 935,076 pilgrims arrived to the Kingdom since the start of arrival until the end of Monday. Major General Fahd al-Sharif told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) that the number includes those arrived by land, sea and air.

King Fahd Receives Message from France's Balladur

LD2505190193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 25 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, has received a message from French Premier Eduard Balladur.

The message was delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques by the envoy of the premier, Mr. Pierre Messmer, when the king received him today in his office at the Royal Court in al-Salam Palace. [passage omitted]

Great Strides Made in Agricultural Sector

LD2205132593 Riyadh SPA in English 1243 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Jeddah, May 22, SPA—Agricultural area in the Kingdom has increased to 775,000 hectares, and the rate of development in the agricultural sector is considered the highest in the whole of the Middle East.

This was disclosed by 'Abd-al-Hamid Darhali, former director general of the Planning Ministry's branch in the western province in a research article published by the Jeddah-based Arabic newspaper 'UKAZ.

In his article, Darhali highlighted the gigantic strides made by Saudi Arabia in the agricultural sector and noted the significant role of modern technology in achieving its green revolution.

The Kingdom now produces a large variety of fruits, vegetables and flowers, apart from poultry, sheep and cows.

"A number of natural and geographical factors including lack of water, rain and rivers, high temperature reaching 50 centigrade have obstructed farming in many parts of the country," he wrote in his article.

Despite these hurdles, the Kingdom now produces 36 million tons of wheat annually and exports the surplus to different parts of the world.

It also produces 2.25 million tons of vegetables, one million ton of dates and other fruit, apart from poultry, eggs, and milk.

Darhali noted the special role of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in boosting agricultural development by extending full support to the farmers by providing them with loans and equipment.

"The large amount of money allocated by the government for the agricultural sector helped in acquiring modern technology which assisted in pumping underground water and expanding the farming area," he said.

The Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank (SAAB) has extended 353,645 loans worth SR [Saudi riyals] 25.73 billion since 1964 through its headquarters and 13 national branches. The number of agricultural projects financed by the bank until last year totaled 1,814.

Moreover, there are currently 3,286 projects under construction and 5,489 under study. Farmers use the funds provided by the government to buy equipment, fertilizers, high-yielding seeds and seedlings as well as to dig wells and construct dams. "Things have become easier now. Electrical pumps can now bring out underground water at 4,500 liters in a second which was impossible in the past," he said.

According to Darhali, there are now 51 national companies specialized in irrigation systems, pipes of various types and fertilizers. In order to provide sufficient water in the southern province, he said the government intends to implement a big dam project in Bishah which can store 325 million cubic meters of water. The dam will cover 1.8 million hectares of forests in the region.

"This fantastic development in agriculture would not have crystallized without using modern machines and technology which helped Saudi farmers to make the land cultivable and irrigate farms properly," he said.

Now farmers and agricultural companies use advanced and automated irrigation machinery which sprinkle water in accordance with the requirements of each crop and plants.

An adequate supply of good fertilizers and protection of crops from weeds and insects have also played a major part in boosting agricultural output.

"This way, the Saudi farmer challenged the desert despite all its negative aspects and succeeded in realizing an agricultural revolution in the country," explained Darhali.

United Arab Emirates

Indian Minister Rejects Islamic Resolution on Kashmir

BK2505145293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has said that India does not recognize the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] resolution on subjects like Kashmir. He said although India is one of the largest

Muslim-populated countries in the world, it is not represented by the ICO, and, therefore, any resolution of such a body on the Muslims of India is a one-sided affair. Talking to our correspondent in Dubayy today, Mr. Bhatia said he has explained to UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Omani leaders that India's ties with Israel will not be at the cost of the friendship with the Arabs.

Rules Out Mediation

BK2605043093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has ruled out the possibility of India accepting any third party mediation effort on Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in Dubayy at the end of an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, he said that there is no need for mediation in what is essentially a bilateral issue. Mr. Bhatia asserted that no purpose will be served in talks with Pakistan unless it stops aiding and abetting terrorism in India. He was reacting to questions about reports from Washington that the United States is exploring a West Asia style peace-making role between India and Pakistan.

Foreign Ministry Protests 'Hostile' Iranian Raids

JN2505183893 Baghdad INA in English 1810 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 25, INA—A Foreign Ministry source told INA that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned today the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad and informed him of Iraq's strong protest against air raids launched by six warplanes this morning on al-Khalis and Jalula' areas in Diyala Province.

The source said that the Iranian hostile raids caused heavy damage.

The source confirmed that these raids are considered a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and national integrity, an overt intervention in its national affairs and an obvious breaching of the Security Council Resolution No. 598 and the Article 4 of the UN Charter and totally contradict the good neighborly relations Iraq has been showing and its sincere desire to normalize and develop the bilateral ties.

The source demanded the Iranian side to immediately cease these unjustifiable aggressive acts that are inconsistent with rules of international law and the UN Charter.

The source also held Iran responsible for consequences of these raids and confirmed Iraq's legitimate and legal rights to adopt any measure it deems fit to defend its airspace and sovereignty and reserve its right to full compensation of damage resulted from these hostile acts pursuant to international law.

Parliament Speaker: Iran Should Make Gesture of Goodwill

NC2605110793 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 26 (AFP) - Iraqi Parliament Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih on Wednesday [26 May] said Iran should take steps to prevent an escalation in the region one day after Iran bombed rebel bases in north-eastern Iraq.

Salih denounced Tuesday's raids against bases of the Iranian opposition movement Mojahedin-e Khalq as "interference in Iraqi affairs".

"Therefore it is up to Tehran to make the (first) gesture" of goodwill to prevent an escalation, he told AFP.

"We favour a political solution and we want to avoid an escalation," Salih said.

But he added: "Any country which is attacked has the right to defend itself."

He also urged Iran, which fought an eight-year war with Iraq from 1980-1988, "not to drag the region into a futile catastrophe."

Iranian Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said Tuesday in Tehran that Iranian warplanes attacked the Mojahedin bases in retaliation for "recent acts of sabotage in Khuzestan" a province in southern Iran.

The Iraqi press meanwhile charged that the United States, whose warplanes bar Iraqi aircraft from flying over southern and northern Iraq, encouraged Iran to carry out the air strikes.

"Iran could not have dared to send its aircraft to bomb Iraqi territory if it had not been for American air cover helping these aircraft," said the government daily AL-JUMHURIYAH.

"The Iranian attack is part of a U.S. plot to harm Iraq," it added.

The ruling Ba'th Party newspaper, AL-THAWRAH, said "the Iranian regime is under an illusion if it thinks the time is right to achieve what it had failed to do during the war" between Iran and Iraq.

"Iraq remains powerful enough to retaliate and destroy the evil dreams" of the Iranian leaders, it said.

Denies Plans To Attack Kurdish Areas

NC2605121093 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, May 26 (AFP) - A senior Iraqi official on Wednesday [26 May] denied his government was massing troops ahead of an offensive on the Kurds of northern Iraq.

"There are no troop concentrations to launch an offensive," Parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih told AFP.

He said the troops deployed near Kurdish-held areas were "in their usual" positions, and their task was to carry out patrols to prevent trouble and chaos from spreading south.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned Saddam Husayn on Monday against attacking northern Iraq, where the Kurds last year elected a parliament in defiance of Baghdad. [passage omitted]

THE NEW YORK TIMES, quoting Kurdish military commanders, said the Iraqi forces had massed on the edge of the Kurdish enclave to recapture Kurdish-held areas which lie south of the no-fly zone outside allied protection. The attack could begin at the start of June.

France also warned Iraq on Tuesday against violating the no-fly zone, which lies north of the 36th parallel.

A Kurdish representative in Paris said Iraq had massed more than 100,000 men close to Iraqi Kurdistan, including two divisions of the elite Presidential Guards which were recently deployed near the Kurdish enclave.

Muhammad Isma'il said the Iraqi troops faced Kurdish peshmerga fighters, sometimes only a few dozen metres away, and most were deployed close to Chamchamal, 45 kms (38 miles) west of al-Sulaymaniyah, and south of Irbil.

Salih meanwhile stressed that Baghdad wanted to "solve problems through dialogue and negotiations. Not with weapons."

But he accused Britain, France and the United States of interfering in Iraqi affairs through their protection of the Kurds.

AL-THAWRAH Warns Iran Against 'Playing With Fire'

JN2605125593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1050 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] On the front page of today's issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH publishes an editorial under the headline "We Warn Them Against Playing With Fire." The editorial says: Once again, through the cowardly and treacherous action it perpetrated yesterday, the Iranian regime proved that it has learned nothing from the eloquent lessons lofty Iraq taught it during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and that this regime has not benefited from them, nor learned lessons from its bitter and costly experience in it. In fact, it proves time and again that it has thus far not abandoned such futile and unsuccessful policies that led it to declaring war against Iraq on 4 September 1980. It was an unsuccessful hostile war, from whose repercussions and destruction it is still suffering.

Within the framework of a series of repeated hostile and provocative acts this reckless regime has carried out and is still carrying out against our country and people, acts that constitute a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the clauses of UN Security Council Resolution 598, six Iranian planes carried out one raid on the al-Khalis area and two raids on the Jalula' area yesterday. These spiteful raids caused material damage to our villages, citizens' houses, and our property, according to the official spokesman's statement that was issued yesterday.

When the regime of the rancorous evildoers in Tehran perpetrates such a treacherous hostile act, at a time when its president tries to appease Washington, works diligently to please it, gain its blessings, and remind it of what it has done and what it is doing to serve it, then it becomes clear that this regime has prepared itself to undertake this treacherous and cowardly action and that it is continuing its role in the unceasing imperialist-Zionist aggression against Iraq. This time, it carried out a direct hostile act against Iraq despite the fact that the eight-year experience of destructive and fierce war indisputably proved that it was totally unsuccessful in playing such a role when the righteous soldiers of Iraq inflicted on it an abominable military and political defeat and foiled its hostile and expansionist program once and for all.

The Iranian regime is absolutely mistaken if it imagines that the time is now ripe to achieve what it failed to achieve of sick delusions and dreams throughout wartime. It will be totally mistaken if it imagines that it is now capable of confronting Iraq. The fact, which the Iranian rulers must know full well, is that Iraq is still strong and capable of making their rancor backfire on them, and of shattering all their illusions and dreams. If the memory of these rulers has weakened to a point where they have forgotten what Iraq did to them and what they themselves inflicted on Iran and its peoples in terms of catastrophes and tragedies as a result of their empty arrogance and intransigence, we say that we are ready to jog their memory and restore consciousness to their empty heads.

As the official spokesman said, we warn those ruling in Iran against the consequences of playing with fire. They experienced this fire in the past and played with it for a long time, but they only reaped defeat, humiliation, and disgrace. They should learn from their defeat in the second al-Qadisiyah and bear in mind that their current internal situation is much worse than it was five years ago. Their shaky regime is too weak to endure the consequences of playing with fire. Let them also know that continuing to play with fire will cause them to be burned by their people before they are burned by Baghdad's wrath. Wise men are those who learn. May the lowly be cursed.

Kurdish Chiefs on Iranian Raids, U.S. Stance

PM2505141293 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 May 93 p7

[Mouna Naim report: "Kurdish Leaders Try To Prevent Disengagement by International Community"]

[Text] The two main leaders of Iraqi Kurdistan—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan—were due to end a four-day visit to Paris on Sunday, 23 May, during which they were received by President Francois Mitterrand.

Trying to convince themselves that things are not going as badly as they seem to be, Talabani and Barzani would like to think that the problems now being experienced by the Kurdish enclave in Iraq a year after the organization of the first free elections under the protection of the Western allies can be overcome.

The U.S. Democratic administration has "depersonalized" the problem with Iraq, stating that its objective is the implementation by Baghdad—whatever the regime in place—of all the UN Security Council resolutions. "This depersonalization of the conflict is not preparation for a reconciliation with Saddam Husayn. Instead, it

aims to make anybody who might succeed him understand that he must respect these resolutions and that he is prohibited from represssing and oppressing the Iraqi people," Barzani told us. He said he was told that by Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the visit to Washington at the end of April by a delegation from the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], which groups all the opposition to the Baghdad government.

Iran recently bombed what it claims to be positions held by Iranian Kurdish fighters without prompting any reaction other than a condemnation by the State Department and the Quai d'Orsay. "The United States and its Western allies have issued a thinly veiled threat to the Iranians, warning them that if they resumed their air raids, they will be punished," Talabani said.

The United Nations has just announced the withdrawal of some of the "blue helmets" responsible for ensuring the security of the humanitarian personnel in Iraqi Kurdistan. "At all events, these 'blue helmets' were not protecting many people and instead were acting as observers. Funding them costs the international community colossal sums. We are therefore not hostile to the departure of most of them. We would like the aid to Kurdistan to change in form. Rather than being used to finance bureaucratic and routine activities, we would like it to be devoted to development projects and the rebuilding of Kurdistan's infrastructure," Talabani replied. But it is precisely financial reasons which have led to the partial withdrawal of the "blue helmets."

It was largely economic aid for Kurdistan that the two leaders discussed with Mitterrand. A "useful" meeting during which the French head of state said, according to Barzani, that "the Kurds can count on France, which will not abandon them and where they have many friends." Although they do not have any "personal friends" in the new majority—as was the case of Bernard Kouchner, former minister of health and humanitarian action—Talabani and Barzani are convinced that Balladur's government supports the Kurdish "cause." "Foreign Minister Alain Juppe recently sent us a letter saying that," Talabani explained. And, although Jacques Chirac was the main architect of the friendship between France and Saddam Husayn in the 1970's, "that regime has since become violent" and everybody in France, including the mayor of Paris, knows it, he said.

With an optimism that is difficult to crush, he is also convinced that the humanitarian organization "Medecins Sans Frontieres," which recently announced its withdrawal from Kurdistan for security reasons, "will return." "We are prepared to guarantee its security," he promised. And in his efforts to be convincing—to convince himself perhaps—he said that the international community and the governments can no longer back down with regard to Kurdistan to the extent that "it is now a cause that is well known to the public, the media, and parliaments."

However, all is not well in Kurdistan. Iraq's recent decision to withdraw 25-dinar bills has complicated the economic situation. "The experts estimate the money in circulation in Kurdistan to be 1 billion dinars, half of which is in 25-dinar bills," Barzani explained, mentioning possible solutions: "Resorting to a foreign currency, printing a currency, asking the Security Council to release some of the Iraqi assets frozen since the Gulf crisis, or linking the Iraqi currency to the Turkish lira." Meanwhile, Kurdistan is bending under daily problems, a victim of the embargo imposed on Iraq by the United Nations and of the embargo that Baghdad itself is imposing on the Kurds.

Barzani also deplored the fact that the countries bordering on Iraq, which do not support the existing regime, do not trust the opposition either, and are acting as spectators and not providing any aid. It is in this connection that an UINC delegation will soon visit Saudi Arabia and possibly other Gulf countries.

Departs With Delegation for Saudi Arabia

NC2505184093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] A delegation from the Unified Iraqi National Congress left London yesterday for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the official invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH, Jalal Talabani said the delegation will exchange views with Saudi officials.

The delegation, comprising Jalal Talabani, Mas'ud Barzani, Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, Major General Hasan al-Naqib, Ahmad al-Jalabi, and several members of the Unified Iraqi National Congress Executive Council, hopes to reach a common position between the Iraqi opposition and Saudi Arabia. The delegation is scheduled to leave for Kuwait later at the official invitation of the Kuwaiti Government.

Kurdish Radio Cites Capture of Bomb Perpetrators

JN2505193593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Statement issued by the Kurdistan region's general security department on 23 May]

[Excerpt] The security [atayish] organs of Karkuk city have apprehended the criminals who carried out the bomb attack in front of the Mishwar restaurant in Irbil on 22 January. The attack martyred 12 citizens and injured 127 others. It inflicted material losses on shops and buildings near the explosion site. Those apprehended are Kawa Muhammad Ma'ruf, Kamiran Haydar Qadir, and Burhan Anwar 'Abdun, all from the town of Chamchamal.

After extensive interrogation, it appears that they left for Karkuk and contacted other associates, as well as [name

indistinct] of the intelligence department, who asked them to take the booby-trapped car to Irbil and detonate it there. He gave them 100,000 dinars as a reward. [passage omitted]

Hundreds Said Arrested in al-Fallujah

NC2505163993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The authorities of tyrant Saddam Husayn last week detained 400 residents of al-Fallujah who are known to frequent mosques. Opposition sources say the authorities of the ostracized regime charged the detainees with involvement in antiregime activities.

Saddam Addresses Diyala Dignitaries

JN2505153893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1119 GMT 25 May 93

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at an oath-taking ceremony in Diyala Governorate; date not given—recorded]

[Text] God bless you, men and women. [applause] The people of Diyala have demonstrated many courageous stands. I want to single out two stands in particular. The men of Diyala were tested a long time ago. They have always had the lion's share of courageous stands. It goes without saying that when we have a solid foundation, we can build on it in a way that pleases God and good men.

The people of Diyala are distinguished because of two particular stands in the Mother of Battles. First, they opened their homes and hearts to receive the largest number of Baghdad people, ranking above all other governorates. The other stand has to do with the position taken by the faithful, stalwart men. When the enemy tried to encroach on the border and trespass on Diyala territory, the men and the people of Diyala stood as one. They all took up arms, and together they defeated aggression.

These positions are always being renewed. They are similar to the positions of the great people of Iraq in the Mother of Battles. Day by day, your positions are cherished more in the eyes of everyone, including your enemies, or let us say, some of your enemies. This is because your enemies are different. Whenever we scan the ranks of your enemies from top to bottom, we find that your position is more respected in their eyes. As for the rulers, I do not think this is the case. Standards were lost because rulers exceeded their limits. This was not because you are not up to it, since they know you are stalwarts. In the standards of past knighthood, any two armies would fight. Then, there would be a duel, where every knight would fight someone of his rank. I am not sure whether you remember the famous story in early Islam when Caliph 'Ali had a duel with one of the polytheists at the orders of Prophet Muhammad. This was an old tradition for the Arabs and for other nations. In battle, they would ask: Is there any swordsman who wants to fight? Then someone would step forward and say: Yes, I am so-and-so, and my title is such and such, and my history is such and such. Then the army commander would do the same. If a fight took place between people ranking below the commander, then someone would fight another who held an equivalent rank. One fighter would fight another. In other duels, there would be some people standing by, ready to intervene if another fighter took part in the fight, since he would be violating the code of swordsmanship.

By what standard, then, did all these people come to fight you? All those who were involved in the decision are cowards. All those who made the decision to fight you are cowards. They are all cowards, with no exception. [applause] When I say this, I am not making prophecies, nor reviling others. I only want to make all the historical facts clear to our people and to our nation, within the context that we think is right. This way, correct standards will not be lost in darkness or confusion. Some 33 states stood against one state. Most of the world's major forces—called major according to the age's materialistic, scientific, and technical standards—have assembled against Iraq, with its known land area, population, and material, scientific, and technical resources. Did they adopt a fair standard, at least regarding the technical aspect? If we talk about fair intentions, we know justice does not change and that God and the believers act according to their standards of faith, virtue, justice, and falsehood. But did they adopt fair standards, technically speaking? Did anyone of them alone address the knights of Iraq: Is there anyone ready for a duel with equivalent weapons? No. In technical calculations, did they accept a duel where equal weapons were used? If they had any right, if they thought they were defending what is right, they would not have waited for seven months to attack. Why does anyone who is in the right and has faith assemble 33 states to attack? The decisionmakers are a group of cowards. They kept pushing each other until they assembled 33 states. Only then did they dare to attack you. Do we not have the right to describe the decisionmakers as cowards? [applause] I specifically mean the decisionmakers, not people on other levels, because they only carry out orders. But we can only describe every decisionmaker in the armies that came to fight us as a coward.

Perhaps you have heard in your daily life the story about a young man attacked by 10 others. They could injure him and beat him up. But, would you admire the group of 10 or the young man? [audience responds, with applause: "The young man"] Why do we admire this individual? Simply because the fight was not fair. Since this individual could face 10 people, then we do not care if his clothes were torn or his face injured. New clothes can be bought; the skin of men will heal, and martyrdom is an honor. [applause] God have mercy on our righteous martyrs. They continue to live among us with the values they established in the defense of principles. This position will continue to haunt the authors of this decision, even as they sleep.

Each and every one of them, if he is faithful and mindful of the rule regarding the proper positions men need to espouse, for this alone must atone daily for his sins. If he is not content with this, he must demonstrate great repentance for his sins everyday. He must repent for endorsing such a decision—the decision to launch an

aggression involving 33 states and 28 armies against a single state and a single army.

Will this be forgotten? If Almighty God decides that all those who are here die. Will this position die? No, it will not die. [applause] The position of both sides will remain. It will be recorded by history. I wish history accepts my appeal. I appeal to history not to record that some of the Arabs took the side of infidelity to form 33 states in order to attack Iraq. You know the reason. If history agrees, we will beg it not to record that the armies of infidelity entered the sacred Muslim places in Saudi Arabia and desecrated them through a decision by its king, the king of the Arabs in Saudi Arabia.

We say history will not accept our appeal. We do not say we hope it will not accept our appeal. We, however, say: We regret that some of the so-called Arabs have desecrated the history of the Arabs and, at the same time, disgraced their families. Maybe not all families are responsible for that decision. What will be recorded for you? God willing, all good deeds will be recorded for you.

Law was applied firmly to those who made certain mistakes. In all cases, no mistake was made as a result of the decision. By this, I mean that personal mistakes made by this or that person. In general, many of these mistakes were made by the same persons who unjustly treated their kinfolk in Diyala, Maysan, Irbil, al-Basrah, or in other areas in Iraq. The entire country was the target of evil.

Other than this, all good deeds were recorded for you. We wished all the Arabs, including the kings and presidents, joined in doing good deeds. But men are judged by their deeds and men's qualities are measured by their faith and their forbearance. Your stand, however, will remain for all the Arabs, not Iraqis alone, because you have raised the banner of faith in the name of all faithful people and in the name of all Arabs. [applause] You also raised the sword of faith in the name of all faithful people and in the name of all Arabs. When you were fighting, under God's care and protection, all good Arabs were before your eyes. The voices of all Arab women, who feared that Iraq's defeat, were in your ears.

Praise be to God. Their missiles fell on children while playing, on women, on mosques, on churches, on fighters, on factories, on schools, on dispensaries, on Army positions, demolishing these sites and martyring and wounding people. This is unfair. It would have been fair if they had come to wage a face-to-face battle. You, however, made up for this.

What example have you given all people? The example you have given them is that despite all the enemy's superiority, which was reached by the major parties for an international confrontation and was used against you to make you lose your faith, your faith remained in your heart, praise be to God. The example you gave to the whole world is that a real believer cannot be shaken in his belief, even if the other party is superior in terms of technical capability and weapons.

You paved the path of belief to people who were not satisfied with the components that would lead them to the straight path. Almighty God is one and great. Had it not been for God's care and protection, we would not say such things. We faithfully say that if we measure things far away from God, we will not see such outcome. We emerged a faithful, proud, honest, and firm people from the acts of the unjust Satan, from this long combat, from this long siege.

O brothers: Sometimes, some people make a comparison. What has happened to us? We eat, drink, and live a normal life. This is correct. But, this is not the comparison through which we make correct conclusions that is [word indistinct] the comparison is to say we were supposed to lose everything dear. However, we safeguarded everything dear, except the blood of men that was shed to safeguard everything dear. This is the sound comparison.

They wanted to slam the door to the future in our face in order to make us perish like other peoples, who were dismembered and fragmented and who lost the elements of their strength. We, however, have kept the door to the future open, God willing. [applause]

They wanted to deprive Iraq of every element of spiritual and moral power, and the elements of civilization, including the material ones. We, however, saved the infrastructure of this, increased our faith, and with God's help became even more capable than we were before the confrontation. Capability is not the result of what we have in our hands, but the result of what is possible after relying on God.

Therefore, you will find that the camp of infidelity, treason, weakness, and evil has lost even the formalities which could have been viewed as a factor of power, after deviating from the sound path in tackling the situation.

I repeat, we are not happy to see those who are considered among the ranks of our nation committing such decisive mistakes or infidel deviations. However, this is what happened.

May God bless the people of Diyala. [applause] May God grant you more faith, more pride, and more firmness; may God grant all the Iraqis more patience for a better and shining future, the signs of which we can see now. We are marching toward this future. With God's help, we will reach this future that will bring pride to every faithful and honest person and to all zealous Arabs in the Arab homeland and in the world, God willing. May God bless you. [applause]

Saddam Receives Military Commanders on Battle Anniversary

JN2505164593 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received a number of commanders and senior officers of the Republican Guard Forces.

During the audience, President Husayn congratulated sons of the Arab nation, and the Iraqi people and the Republican Guard Forces on the anniversary of Wa Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah (on God we rely) battles in which parts of our country in Shalamjah in the al-Basrah operations sector were liberated from the Iranian invasion.

Official: Oil Reserves Total 112 Billion Barrels

JN2505161193 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 25, INA—Iraq's oil reserves have now amounted to 112 billion barrels, an official in the Oil Ministry has said.

Dr. Radwan Hammudi al-Sa'di, the general director of Oil Discoveries Company at the Ministry of Oil told AL-QADISIYAH daily today that Iraq's oil reserves before the nationalization were only 34 billion barrels.

He added that Iraq would be in the near future at the forefront of oil producing countries in the world.

Iraq today is the second larger country in oil reserves after Saudi Arabia, Dr Sa'di said.

He has said his company has an ambitious plan to increase oil production from three million barrels a day to six million barrels a day.

'First of Its Kind' Bridge Under Construction in South

JN2605095493 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 May 93 p 1

[By Hanan Janab]

[Excerpt] Baghdad—The mujahidin in the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] have begun to construct a bridge without using reinforced steel. AL-JUMHURIYAH learned from MIO sources that the bridge, which is under construction and for which designs have been completed, will be the first of its kind in Iraq. The bridge is currently under construction over the Mother of Battles River in southern Iraq.

The sources said that Engineer Muhammad Tariq al-Katib, a consultant on bridges, drew the designs of the bridge in cooperation with a specialized Iraqi engineering team and consultants from al-Faw State Enterprise. The designs were drawn according to many calculations, including time, expenses, and available local materials.

Engineer 'Ala' Salman, director general of the Roads and Bridges Department, an MIO affiliate, told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the bridge basically depends on regular concrete without using reinforced steel.

The designs represent a development of older methods known in Iraq and the world, but with the use of modern technological means. The designs were drawn following instructions by the president concerning the need to be inspired by Iraqi architectural heritage, especially with the embargo situation and the scarcity of reinforced steel. [passage omitted]

Water for Cooling Power Plants To Be Used for Irrigation

JN2605133093 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 May 93 p 1

[By Maryam al-'Atiyah]

[Text] Baghdad—Dr. Ja'far Dia' Ja'far, an adviser at the Presidential Office, has announced that a project, the first of its kind in the Middle East, is about to be carried out. He added: Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God bless him, ordered the implementation of this project under the direct supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of the industry and oil sectors. The project aims at recycling water used for cooling steam electrical power plants, which reaches 131 cubic meters per minute, and utilizing it to irrigate agricultural land surrounding the plants.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. Ja'far said that all the studies conducted by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and by cadres from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation were very successful. It is hoped that work on this project will begin in the second half of this year.

He added: The economic feasibility study for this project conducted by Dijlah and al-Furat centers, which are affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and by the engineering consultancy office at al-Basrah University, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, proved the possibility of recycling cooling water, which used to be wasted, at four electrical power plants. These plants are: Bayji, al-Harithah, al-Nasiriyah, and Dibs. The objective of this project is to irrigate an area of 269,000 donums of unexploited agricultural land in the governorates of al-Basrah, Dhi Qar, Salah-al-Din, and al-Ta'mim. [passage omitted]

Egypt Reportedly Requests Payment for Arms, Transport

NC2505152893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Egypt has asked the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn to pay the sum of $280 million for services provided to Iraq in the past by Egyptair, as well as for weapons provided by the Arab Industrialization Organization during the Iraq-Iran war.

Egyptian sources today said that the Egyptian request has been conveyed to Iraq via the Arab League. The sources said nothing about the date on which the request was made or the nature of the Iraqi regime's response.

Dutch Minister Discusses Peace Talks With Peres

TA2505151793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred today with his Dutch counterpart, Peter Kooijmans, who is touring the Middle East. The guest reported that he found the Arab capitals disappointed with the results of the ninth round of the peace talks. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the Arabs are aware of the fact that matters of substance were discussed for the first time in this round and that, consequently, the negotiations must continue. The leaders of Syria and Lebanon reiterated that they will attend the multilateral talks only after progress has been made in the bilateral negotiations.

Other issues discussed in the Peres-Kooijmans meeting were the struggle against the Arab boycott and issues pertaining to Israel and the EC.

Meets With Palestinians

TA2505174493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans conferred today with representatives of the Palestinians in the territories. Our correspondent Amir Hay reports:

[Begin recording] [Hay] The Dutch foreign minister, known as a pro-Palestinian, conferred today with a delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni for about two hours. Questions of substance were discussed for the first time in the ninth round of peace talks, Kooijmans said, and that is why the Palestinians must do everything in their power to pursue the negotiations. His interlocutors argued that the prolonged closure and the violation of human rights in the territories are the two main issues compelling the Palestinian delegation to toughen its positions.

The Palestinians also asked for special financial aid from the Netherlands, outside the annual aid they receive from the EC.

[Kooijmans, in English] I do hope that you will soon have a 10th round. And, as I said this morning, I do hope that this 10th round will produce tangible results because I think it is extremely important that the people in the region feel for themselves that these peace talks are worthwhile.

[Al-Husayni, in English] Actually, it was a very good discussion. And as his excellency said, we explained our position, our situation, the problems that we are facing in this peace process and on the ground here. And we hope that Europe in general and Holland in particular can be in a position to help us in overcome the obstacles that we are facing. And we hope that Holland, from its own position and its own relations in this area, can really help.

[Hay] Elsewhere in East Jerusalem, a rally against the establishment of autonomy, organized by opponents to the peace process, was held at the same time at the al-Hakawati Theater. Once again, they attacked the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and argued that accepting the proposed autonomy would put the Palestinians in an inferior position. [end recording]

Defendant in World Trade Center Bombing Interviewed

JN2605090493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 93 pp 1, 16

[Report on interview with World Trade Center bombing suspect Muhammad Salamah by Kamil Ghazzawi in New York; date not given]

[Text] New York—It was not easy for me to enter the jail in New York to visit someone who has been arrested in a federal case in the United States. Quite honestly, this was almost an impossible task. However, I worked tirelessly with Dr. Muhammad Mahdi, who did a great job in securing all the necessary permits for me to meet Muhammad Salamah, the first defendant in the World Trade Center bombing in New York. Therefore, SAWT AL-SHA'B is the first Arabic newspaper to conduct such an interview. This, in itself, is a scoop.

Immediately after we entered, the gate closed electronically. We were searched more than 10 times, and our hands were stamped with invisible ink in order to be distinguishable from the others. Finally, we were able to meet with Muhammad Salamah. He seems like a decent person. Some of his beard had been cut, so he looked different from the heavy-bearded photograph that had appeared in U.S. newspapers.

We greeted Muhammad Salamah with a hug. We sat in the prison library and discussed some issues. The following is the text of the interview:

[Ghazzawi] What does jihad mean to you?

[Salamah] It means war to uphold God's word. It means more than that; it has a defensive connotation. It purges you. It teaches you self-restraint. U.S. presidents have developed the word "self" in the expression "self-defense" to include Grenada, Panama, Libya, Iraq, and other areas.

[Ghazzawi] Have you met with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in the United States?

[Salamah] I did not have any face-to-face meeting with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Neither had any appointment been made for me to meet him. Such a thing did not happen. However, I listened to one of his sermons, and I saw him from a distance. I also saw him on television several times. Despite this, I disagree with many of them [not further identified] over certain interpretations of religious issues. I even disagree with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman on many issues.

[Ghazzawi] The U.S. media adopted a hostile stand toward you, and time and again leveled accusations against you. What do you have to say about this?

[Salamah] I am innocent of all charges. I ask the American people to do their best to pinpoint the real criminals, who, through their action, have placed us in a tight corner. I hope the FBI will not make any false gains or cheap propaganda at the expense of Muslims and Arabs, especially since I am innocent and I did not do this thing. The U.S. media were confused, they resorted to sensationalism to achieve their objectives and unleash their rancor against Islam through fabricating such stories.

[Ghazzawi] The U.S. news media say that you have a relationship with an obscure woman called Gushia Hadas and that you gave her address to the Ryder Truck Rental Company, from which the booby-trapped car was rented.

[Salamah] The Arabs said, and all analysts know, that the World Trade Center tragedy was planned by the Israeli intelligence organ, the Mosad, particularly after the disappearance of Gushia Hadas. In addition to this, the FBI failed to identify this person. Gushia Hadas does not exist. Based on this, my information, which came from reliable sources investigating this case, is that this character is imaginary. One of my friends fabricated this person for personal reasons. I met that friend later, and he stressed to me that Gushia Hadas is an imaginary character and that he himself fabricated it.

[Ghazzawi] What inspires you while you are in a New York prison cell?

[Salamah] I am inspired by the prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him.

[Ghazzawi] Would you like to say something to your family?

[Salamah] First, I would like to thank and express my love and gratitude for the Arab press, particularly the Jordanian press, which wrote a lot about me and followed up my case. I also would like to thank Dr. Muhammad Mahdi, who helps brother journalists obtain visiting permits or meets with me face to face in order to convey my views to the Arab and foreign press. As for my family members, I want them, and all Arabs and Muslims, to pray for me, because I am innocent, and God knows this.

King Criticizes Iraqi Regime, Press Distortions

PM2605103093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 May 93 pp1, 4

[Salamah Ni'mat report: "King Husayn: I Cannot Continue To Support Saddam"]

[Text] Amman—King Husayn has strongly criticized the Jordanian political forces and journalists who support the Iraqi regime, describing them as "enemies of democracy, freedom, and human rights." He said that the Iraqi regime has, "through its practices, led us to a situation which broke our backs." He declared: "I cannot continue to support that policy and leadership." He drew attention to distorted reports harmful to Jordan's relations with the Arab Gulf states and referred to what had been published about prevention of Jordanian pilgrims from entering the holy places in Saudi Arabia, emphasizing

that "our brothers in Saudi Arabia have done the impossible to fulfill every need, even though the number of the pilgrims exceeded the number already decided."

At a meeting with local press editors the day before yesterday, the Jordanian monarch warned against journalists who benefit materially from their support for the Iraqi regime at the expense of principles and the truth. He said: "I, on this occasion, warn against the enemies of democracy, freedom, and human rights, and I pray God that there may be none among us who could at any stage be described as seeking material gain at the expense of principles, justice, and the truth."

He vehemently criticized some local papers' interpretations of his statements about the Iraqi leadership, interpretations that were contrary to what was meant by the statements. The Jordanian monarch had, in some press interviews, called for Saddam Husayn to step down and called for the start of a shift toward democracy, political plurality, and respect for human rights in Iraq.

In the course of his comments to the press editors on his past statements on Iraq, King Husayn said: "Do not interpret, change, or soften my words. Perhaps there would have been room for change if they listened to us." He said he fears that the partition of Iraq into three regions in the north, center, and south may have become a reality. He wondered, "What is the answer? Do we support the Iraqi leadership, which I wish would once listen to a view I expressed or advice I gave, or do we pay attention to the (Iraqi) people, who are part of us?" He added that the Iraqi regime has, "through its practices, led us to a situation that has broken our backs. I cannot continue to support that policy and that leadership."

The Jordanian king criticized the papers that published distorted reports with the aim of undermining Jordan's relations with some Arab Gulf states, referring in particular to a report about Jordanian pilgrims being prevented from entering the holy places in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also the publication of an abusive poem. He said: "Our brothers in Saudi Arabia have done the impossible to meet every need, even though the number of the pilgrims exceeded the number already decided." He described the published poem as "disgraceful in quality and language." He revealed that he contacted the Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman to express resentment at the poem's publication and to express his gratitude for the care accorded the Jordanian pilgrims. He added that he hoped that there would be no repetition of such insults and that the Jordanian press would not become "a cause for other people's suffering."

He continued: "Perhaps the brothers with whom I met in the past recall how many times I pleaded and pleaded strongly that we refrain from abuse, follow a respectable method, defend what is right, and offer ideas, not sink to the abyss."

Commenting on the Jordanian monarch's statements on Iraq, a Jordanian official told AL-HAYAH that "Jordan has every right to be proud of its democratic experiment and defense of freedom and human rights. Everyone who believes in that approach must reject selective double standards in the application of the measures of freedom, democracy, and human rights."

AL-HAYAH Banned for Report on Remarks

JN2605075193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 May 93 p 2

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that 'Isa al-Jahamani, director general of the Press and Publication Department, has decided to ban the circulation of the Monday, 23 May [date as published], issue of London AL-HAYAH in Jordan for publishing a distorted and inaccurate news report on His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the chief editors of the local press on Saturday.

A source at the Press and Publications Department said the twisted way in which the news report was published would harm Jordan's relations with the sisterly Arab countries. He added that the newspaper's correspondent did not check with a responsible source to verify what really took place during this meeting before publishing it.

Iraqis Urged To Take Steps To End Crisis

JN2605070793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Changes From Within"]

[Text] The situation in Iraq is increasingly becoming precarious. The UN sanctions imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 are taking their toll on the Iraqi people. The no-fly zones in the north and south could ultimately contribute to the division of the country. And Iraq's isolation in the Arab and international arena seems to have no end in sight.

The UN Security Council, led by the sole superpower, the U.S., seems to be adamant on keeping the regime of sanctions against Iraq intact until Iraq complies with all the council resolutions. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was quoted May 24 as saying Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "knows what he has to do" in order for the U.S. and its allies to ease pressure on Iraq.

UN Security Council resolutions 706 and 712 give Iraq the right to sell $1.5 billion worth of its oil under UN supervision to buy food and medicine for its people. But Iraq refuses because it contends that that infringes on Iraqi sovereignty.

The two "no-fly" zones that the West imposed in the south and the north followed Iraqi attempts to crush the revolutions of first Kurds in the north and later Shiites in the south. Both Shiites and Kurds revolted against the regime and continuously assert their commitment to Iraq's unity of land and people.

Not that the Iraq crisis is limited to that country and its people. It created division in the Arab World that for the time being seems to defy any reconciliation effort.

So how can Iraq and the Arab World get out of this crisis? Although it is difficult to answer this question any solution to the whole problem must originate from Iraq itself. The Iraqi leadership needs to recognise that the international and regional situtions requires it to fully comply with the UN Security Council resolutions in order to end its isolation and to lift hardships on its people. It needs to recognise that unless democracy, pluralism, and respect are attained, unity for its people, political and human rights will continue to be threatened.

Although many people sympathise with the plight of the Iraqi people and believe that the sanctions are unjust, the realities of international and regional politics are such that sympthy in itself will not change the situation. Only pragmatic and practical steps taken by the Iraqi people and its leaders will lead to change.

Israeli Daily Reports Interviews With King, Others

TA2505150693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 May 93 p 5

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] "I feel it is my duty to warn all of the partners to the political process that we must not fail. While peace cannot cure every political ailment, it is an irreversible step. If there is no peace, we will witness not only deterioration, but a much more serious and dangerous situation."

This warning was issued by Jordan's King Husayn in an interview with Palestinian journalist and writer Nasir al-Din al-Nashashibi.

Al-Nashashibi returned yesterday from a series of meetings with King Husayn and other top-echelon Jordanian figures. Husayn stressed that he sees himself as an advocate of the political process and cautioned against the designs of people who plan to freeze the negotiations with Israel.

Al-Nashashibi also met with Crown Prince Hasan, Jordanian Prime Minister Ziyad al-Rifa'i [as published], and with 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to talks with Israel.

Al-Majali disclosed: "I am very fond of my colleague Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation." Dr. al-Majali, who is also King Husayn's personal physician, described the Israeli Government secretary as "a talented, very intelligent man, an earnest promoter of the process who knows how to emphasize the positive aspects."

PLO's Qaddumi Discusses Peace Talks With Buwayz

NC2505172993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 May 93

[News conference by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents after a meeting in the Foreign Ministry in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi]: What are the new Palestinian ideas for participating in the 10th round of talks?

[Qaddumi] There are no new Palestinian ideas. My meeting with Minister Buwayz was one of consultation to assess the ninth round and to explore future moves so as to define a clear Arab policy on the settlement process.

[Correspondent] Are you satisfied with the outcome of the ninth round of talks and do you accept participation in the 10th round without precondition?

[Qaddumi] The ninth round has increased our disappointment in the intransigent Israeli position and its failure to honor the commitments promised by the United States and in the U.S. position. The United States failed to demonstrate that it is what it claims—a primary partner in the settlement. Instead, it left things as they are and even advanced ideas that constitute a retraction from the letter of assurances handed to the Palestinians.

[Correspondent] Is a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration being prepared before the 10th round of talks?

[Qaddumi] After everything I have just said in terms of the ninth round's negative outcome, how could there be a Palestinian-Israeli declaration?

[Correspondent] What are you proposing to the Arab parties during your tour?

[Qaddumi] First, consultations with the Arab parties. We will meet, God willing, early next month to discuss what we can do as an Arab group.

[Correspondent] Do you favor holding a meeting on coordination in Amman on 5 June?

[Qaddumi] Such a meeting is a regular one, held in any Arab capital. We will consult with our brothers in Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, after consulting with our brothers here in Lebanon, to set a date for the next meeting.

[Correspondent] Minister Buwayz, could you tell us about your talks with brother Abu-al-Lutf?

[Buwayz] As His Excellency Minister Abu-al-Lutf said, we discussed and made a comprehensive assessment of the ninth round on every track. We do not believe the ninth round has produced sufficient reason to justify a 10th round. So intensive contacts are needed on the sidelines to discuss what could be done in this respect. We discussed a meeting of foreign ministers of the countries taking part in the talks. We will continue to coordinate on the meeting in Amman.

[Correspondent] Minister, do you agree to attend the 10th round, and did you discuss it with brother Abu-al-Lutf?

[Buwayz] Our position on this has always been to make such a decision during the coordination meetings. We always waited for these meetings to obtain enough information and get enough of an assessment so that a joint and unified decision could be made by all the Arab parties. The same will happen this time too.

[Correspondent] Have you received any new U.S. guarantees on the 10th round?

[Buwayz] No. We have received nothing new from any party since the ninth round. This is why we are holding the consultations with a view to discussing future steps.

[Correspondent] What is required of the U.S. side?

[Buwayz] The U.S. side is required not to confine its activity to technicalities or mediation on logistics. The U.S. side is required to be an active partner, to act as a full mediator, and to get involved in the substance and essence of the issue.

Leaves for Damascus

NC2505164193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Following a joint news conference today by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, the Palestinian delegation left for Damascus.

Deportee Spokesman Warns Against Concessions

NC2605113893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman of the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon, has warned the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations against offering what he called concessions and called on it not to participate in the 10th round.

He said that the Zionist delegation does not want to offer anything to the Arab delegation. The position of the United States, the full partner in the negotiations, is clearly biased in favor of the so-called State of Israel. He urged the Arab states, particularly the cordon states, to maintain a clear and harmonious position in the peace negotiations [as heard].

Rejects U.S. 'Request' To Dissolve PLO

JN2505191193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The militant deportees, who, God willing, will return home, have called for a comprehensive national dialogue to reassess what has happened with the aim of serving our people and their just cause. Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said such a thing is imperative, especially since

there is a clear escalation in the savage Zionist onslaught against our Palestinian people. The entire world is standing as witnesses to the enemy's savage measures against that militant people. Al-Rantisi said these practices must prompt the world to shoulder its responsibilities. It is time for world organizations concerned with human rights to fulfill their role by checking Zionist savagery and stopping the systematic terrorism against the Palestinian people, who are also subjected to deportation and displacement.

In his statements, al-Rantisi, spokesman for the militant deportees, who, God willing, will return home, said the U.S. request to dissolve the PLO is totally unacceptable because the PLO is a Palestinian achievement. Its dissolution would constitute an ugly crime, which could be committed only by a person who lost all senses.

Hungarian Official Meets al-Hirawi, Buwayz

NC2505191593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this afternoon received Dr. Andras Kelemen, Hungarian secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, who gave him a message from the Hungarian president.

The Hungarian official said the message states the Hungarian position on the Middle East crisis. Hungary, he added, believes Lebanon should restore control over all its land. The Hungarian official said: We know how much the Lebanese and Palestinian people suffer because of occupation. The Hungarian official said his country seeks to improve its political and other ties with Lebanon.

Kelemen, his accompanying delegation, and the Hungarian ambassador to Lebanon held a two-hour session of official talks earlier today with a Foreign Ministry team of Ambassadors Zafir al-Hasan, George Siyan, Jihad Murtada, and Gilbert 'Awn.

The Hungarian delegation also met Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Afterward, Kelemen voiced his country's support for the principle of exchanging land for peace and for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He said Hungary can now formulate its foreign policy without direct foreign intervention. In doing so, it considers various international changes.

AL-QABAS Interviews Defense Minister on Peace

NC2505184293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said the peace talks have not been a success or failure. He said the Israeli working paper contained nothing new, only booby traps.

Dallul said: If we sidestepped UN Security Council Resolution 425, we would be heading toward partial solutions and unilateral peace. Dallul said the Lebanese authorities are ready to prevent any military operation against Israel and to disarm the illegitimate forces if Israel withdraws from the security strip. He blamed Arab countries for failing to assist the Lebanese Army, recalling the Army's role in rebuilding the state and confronting the Israeli occupation.

Islamic Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties

NC2505125193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] In the south, an Islamic Resistance unit attacked a military convoy of the Israeli occupation forces on the Shaqif-Arnun road at 1150 today. The Resistance issued a statement saying that a half-hour clash ensued between the convoy and the Resistance unit and that an unspecified number of the enemy personnel were either killed or wounded.

Reports Attack on Enemy Position

NC2605132193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that one of its groups attacked an enemy assembly point near the Sujud position at 1430 today. It added that a battle ensued between the resistance fighters and the occupation soldiers and that a number of the latter were killed or wounded.

The enemy artillery at the al-Zaffatah position immediately fired on Tallat Mlita with 155-mm shells.

SLA Radio Reports Soldier Wounded in 25 May Attack

NC2605074293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was slightly wounded yesterday morning when an Army patrol came under rocket and machine-gun fire on the Arnun road. The SLA and Israeli artillery immediately shelled terrorist targets in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and on the outskirts of Yuhmur and Arnun.

Amal Movement Claims Attack on SLA Position

NC2605084493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Amal Movement has claimed responsibility for attacking a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position on 'Ali al-Tahir hill at 2230 last night. Another group [not further identified] attacked the al-Burj position.

Immediately afterward, the township of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit came under 120-mm shell fire. Flares lit the sky over the region.

In another development, Habib Tawbah was found dead in the township of 'Aytarun. His brother, Bahij Tawbah, is an SLA local security official.

PLO's Qaddumi Voices Satisfaction With Visit

JN2605093693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 24 May (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning after a visit of several days to Syria.

Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and some members of the PLO office in Damascus bade him farewell.

In a predeparture statement to a SANA correspondent, Qaddumi expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Syria and his talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which assessed the previous stage. He said: Our viewpoints were identical, which is the result of the joint cooperation and coordination we decided on at the start of the peace process.

He added: Based on this, we paid an official visit to Lebanon yesterday and held talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Our views on the peace process were also identical. We agreed to continue our discussions at the ministerial meeting in Amman in early June.

Qaddumi also expressed his satisfaction with bolstering Arab coordination and cooperation. He said: This will ultimately strengthen our negotiating cards and put us in a stronger position to confront Israel's intransigent stands, which obstruct the peace process.

Concluding his statement, Qaddumi said: We discussed all matters related to the peace process. Agreement was reached on these matters, all of which will be presented during the upcoming coordination meeting in Amman.

Officials Express Displeasure With U.S. Over Talks

PM2605084193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 May 93 p 3

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Syrian Officials Urge United States To Bring Pressure To Bear on Israel"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Syria yesterday expressed strong discontent at the U.S. position expressed through its recent statements, in which it told participants in the Arab-Israeli negotiations of the need to display flexibility and make mutual concessions and warned that Washington would no longer tolerate the standstill the negotiations were experiencing. Syria said that these statements by Washington equated the aggressor and the victim of aggression—that is, Israel, which occupies the lands and persecutes inhabitants, and the Arabs, who are demanding their rights and the implementation of international resolutions.

Syrian officials have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel is still obstructing the peace process—which is confirmed by statements by its officials reflecting noncompliance with the authority of the peace process. And it is still continuing its repressive measures, trying to give the impression that it will not be able to achieve peace or make concessions in view of domestic pressures. The Syrian officials added that it is very difficult to go to a 10th round of peace negotiations given these factors and conditions, not because Syria and the Arabs do not want peace but because there are no new factors, neither from Israel nor from the United States, to encourage the continuation of the negotiations. They said that the fate of the 10th round will be no better than the fate of the previous nine rounds unless a fundamental change occurs in the Israeli position vis-a-vis the complete and comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of Palestinian national rights, and unless the United States intervenes seriously and decisively to emphasize its role as an impartial and sincere mediator.

The Syrian officials urged Washington to bring all pressure to bear on Israel, which is obstructing the negotiations. And they said that the Arabs are awaiting a reply from the U.S. Administration before the Arab foreign ministers council convenes to assess the process and results of the peace negotiations. The officials confirmed that contacts are currently being conducted between the Arab capitals and Washington over the efforts that could be made to achieve positive steps in the interests of the peace question in the Middle East.

They added that Washington has been informed that the Arabs will not go to the negotiations before securing conditions that could achieve the desired peace—for the sake of which the Arabs participated in the negotiations—that is, with U.S. assurances. The Arabs were surprised by the neutral, spectator's position of the U.S. Administration—which encouraged Israel to dilute the negotiations and not to make any decisions for the sake of peace. What is more, Washington declared that both the sides, the Arabs and the Israelis, are responsible for the failure of the ninth round. [passage omitted]

Media Criticize U.S. Position on Peace Talks

'Retreat' on Sending Delegation

JN2505150493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has gone back on its plan to dispatch a delegation to the region tasked with bridging the gaps between the Palestinian side and the Israeli Government in order to conclude a declaration of principle on the proposed transitional autonomy and to prepare a broad outline of the fate of the occupied territories. The explanation for this retreat was that the administration wants to pressure and compel the parties concerned to affirm their seriousness. It is not prepared to send a mission destined to fail. Washington did not define the party whose seriousness lacked affirmation,

despite the fact that Israel's Prime Minister Rabin affirmed his adherence to his rejection of what he called any concessions to the Palestinian side, given that his autonomy plan ignores the right of self-determination and the final status of the occupied territories.

The U.S. retreat did not surprise observers who have been following Israel's anti-peace policy. Both the Bush and the Clinton administrations made many promises that were not put into practice. Former President George Bush regarded the settlements as a basic obstacle to peace and a clear violation of international law. He refrained from offering Israel loan guarantees until it categorically adhered to stopping the building of settlements. However, Bush went back on his decision and granted the Rabin government the required loan guarantees, despite the fact that Rabin did not commit himself to ending the settlements but, instead, distinguished between security settlements and political settlements, openly claiming that security settlement building would continue, as indeed it did.

Similarly, President Clinton pledged that the United States would play an effective, fair, and honest role. However, the Arab delegations to the Washington talks sensed no such thing. The Israeli side continued its intransigence and rejected full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, despite the fact that the UN Security Council resolutions, regarded as a basis for the peace process, stipulate the impermissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and call on Israel to implement full withdrawal. Rabin himself announced that Jerusalem would not be subject to negotiations and would continue to be occupied forever. He explained that no matter what, Israel will not go back to the borders of 5 June 1967.

Despite the fact that Arabs have in word and deed proved their adherence to peace, and despite their firm efforts to conclude a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East—saving the region from the scourge of wars and conflicts and placing it on the path of security, stability, and prosperity—these sincere peaceful approaches have not met with any reciprocal serious and objective cooperation and have not won them a just stand from states that are concerned with the peace process, as President Hafiz al-Asad aptly said when he met with the Dutch foreign minister.

The Israeli rulers continue to thwart peace opportunities and foil sessions at the talks, one by one and round after round. The ninth round was a demonstration of Israel's stalling and deception at their peak. The Israelis refused to talk about full withdrawal from the Golan despite Syria's formula of full peace for full withdrawal. The Israelis presented to the Palestinian side an autonomy plan which had nothing to do with their rights and legitimate aspirations. They presented to the Lebanese side a paper which is basically the same as the rejected 17 May [1983] agreement.

The participating Arab parties expected the Americans to intervene and use their weight to support the land-for-peace principle, back the application of the Security Council resolution, and play the just and honest role they had promised to play. The basis of the peace process—one of the axioms of justice—is implementing the internationally legitimate resolutions which clearly stipulate the impermissibility of the acquisition of the territories of others by force and the need for withdrawal. These resolutions canceled the Israeli measures annexing Jerusalem and the Golan and deemed them null and void, without any legal basis. These resolutions denounced Israeli settlements and called for respecting the identity of the occupied territory and maintaining their landmarks. Instead of confronting the stalling of the aggressor and supporting justice, right, and international law, the United States placed the victim and the executioner on the same footing and called for concessions.

Ending Israel's occupation of Arab territories and stopping the savage war against the Palestinian and Lebanese people is an Arab right and the international community's duty. It is, in the final analysis, a rectification of an abnormal condition created in 1967 in contravention of all agreements and principles. The international community should have put an end to this occupation when it issued Resolution 242. Calling on Arabs to offer concessions seeks to circumvent the principles of right and justice and reward the aggressor. Are the Arabs required to concede their rights and land when they are offering Israel a just and real peace? Success at the peace talks is impossible without effective pressure on the Israeli rulers, without serious and objective international cooperation and a just policy from states concerned with the peace process. Peace is possible only by the implementation of Security Council resolutions, returning occupied Arab territories and ending Israeli aggression. Ignoring facts, holding the aggressor and the victim on the same level and ignoring justice will not lead to peace. There is no peace without justice. One of the simplest elements of justice is for Arabs to regain their territories and for Palestinians to decide their future in full freedom without occupation, oppression, and tyranny.

Working To Help Israelis

JN2505195993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 May 93

[Palestine Broadcast: "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: The United States has postponed, or called off, a scheduled visit by a U.S. team led by two Department of State officials. The team's destination was occupied Palestine. Its mission was to draft a joint deceleration of principles by the Palestinian and Israeli parties.

From the justifications it gave to call off the visit, we can see that the United States is holding both sides equally responsible for the failure of talks. It is also clear from recent statements by U.S. officials that the Americans

have no patience for going deep into the talks and do not intend to play the role of fair mediator. They want the talks to move toward success, but, after taking Israeli considerations into account, it is as if their mission is to help the Israeli negotiator attain his objectives, while expecting concessions from only one party, the Arab party. The problem is that the concessions Israel wants from the peace process undermine the peace process itself. This makes Israel's goal an Arab capitulation to Israel's desires. This is what the Arabs cannot possibly accept.

Papers Urge Pressure on Israel

JN2605102993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH notes Israel's strange statements and acts, which reveal, on a daily basis, highly provocative stands in defiance of the international law and UN resolutions, foremost among which are Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which constitute the terms of reference of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: What is bewildering is that Israel, 19 months after the convocation of the Madrid conference and after nine rounds of bilateral talks in Washington, has deliberately killed each and every opportunity for true and tangible progress toward a settlement and a solution, either by intransigence and rejectionism, which manifest themselves in a desire to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territories, or by pursuing courses of action based on maneuvering, deception, political fraud, and persistence in evading peace requirements.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Given the failure of both the international community and the United States to take firm action to make the aggressor renounce the course of aggression, occupation, and obstructionism, Israeli rulers have gained the courage to continue with their assaults. Hence, their political outbidding on peace has turned into stronger outbidding on rejectionism and into a competition among all Zionist parties for consecrating new facts to impose the status quo and realize the Torah dream of establishing Greater Israel.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The provocative Likud congress held in the occupied Golan, the Labor Party's referendum proposal that Rabin has spoken of, the fabricated coalition crisis, as well as the distorted proposals Israel offered as solutions on this or that front are all manifestations of a policy that, in effect, revokes the terms of reference of the peace process and renders them devoid of any meaningful content. Furthermore, all of these developments show the Rabin government retreating and clearly evading the peace process in favor of settlers and ultra-extremists. Unless the U.S. sponsor hastens to honor its commitments, plays the role of a fair and honest partner, and makes Israel comply with international resolutions and return all Arab territories and rights to their owners in full, peace and the region will remain vulnerable.

Today's AL-BA'TH editorial says: There is premature talk of a new round of peace talks. The reasons for the failure to make any progress in the peace talks are well known. Hence, the regional and international efforts currently under way in this regard on all levels must focus on removing the obstacles precluding progress to open the door for a just and comprehensive peace in this part of the world.

AL-BA'TH adds: When the reasons for the failure of the peace talks are considered, a comparison must be made between the positions of the two parties; that is, between the serious Arab position, which is in line with international legitimacy and its resolutions, and the highly arrogant Israeli stand, which is marked by evasion, maneuvering, and the submission of proposals designed to derail the peace process in order to impose capitulation on the Arabs and achieve objectives that would ensure the success of the Zionist plan, which is based on the establishment of Greater Israel extending from the Euphrates to the Nile—a plan that (?concerns) all of the political forces that make up the coalition government, regardless of whether they belong to the moderate right or left.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The issue of peace does not only concern the Arabs and Israel. It also concerns world states, given the direct impact it has on world security and stability.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The current talk of convening a 10th round of talks must be coupled with bringing pressure to bear on the party that is precluding any progress in the peace process. This responsibility must be shouldered by the cosponsors of the peace process and the world states, each according to its role and position. The interests of all parties are promoted by the achievement of peace. As regards the failure of peace talks, it will have negative effects on the interests of all world states.

Afghanistan

Shiite Fighters in Kabul 'Scornful' of Iran

BK2605030093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0135 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Kabul, May 26 (AFP)—The 10-year old Shi'ite guerrilla clutching an Iranian-made version of the Soviet RPG-7 anti-tank rocket launcher expertly explains how to fire this lethal weapon. His competence comes from frontline combat experience.

There is an unofficial ceasefire here in the south of Afghanistan's capital but for 10 days in May this boy, along with his Hezb-e-Wahdat [Islamic Unity] faction brothers, defended a post guarding the narrow lanes near Kabul University against attack by Defence Ministry troops.

Intense punishment by tank and heavy artillery fire has slowly converted this former civilian real estate—the locals have fled—into rubble. The Wahdat guerrillas, with their stuffed-leopard mascot looted from the Kabul zoo, exist like hermits in heavily fortified underground bunkers.

From somewhere, though, permeates the stench of rotting human flesh, a Wahdat gunman killed in the battle but whose body is buried under the debris of one of the many smashed houses.

Wahdat is generally recognised as an Iranian-supported faction but curiously some Wahdat fighters are scornful of their Iranian Shi'ite brothers.

"We are against Iran. If I catch an Iranian I'll cut him into little bits," mutters an angry Wahdat gunman fondling a Soviet-issue Kalashnikov bayonet.

The vehemence of his statement is a challenge to the conventional understanding that Wahdat is the glove that masks the hand of covert Iranian influence in Afghanistan.

"What have they done for us? I fought in Iran against Iraq but the Iranians wouldn't even let us bury our dead in the same graves as theirs," the knife-wielding fighter explains.

He says thousands of Afghan Hazaras, traditionally regarded as the ethnic descendents of Genghis Khan's Mongol hordes which invaded and sacked Afghanistan during the 13th Century, fought in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, due to a perceived sense of religious unity.

"Our people thought, as brother Shi'ites, we Hazaras ought to fight alongside the Iranians and support them, but we soon realised it was a hopeless cause," he says.

"They betrayed us. Except for treason, they gave us nothing," the Wahdat guerrilla says bitterly.

His comrades nod in agreement.

"If we had real support, like people mistakenly think, we would quickly empty this country of our enemies," another Iran-Iraq war veteran adds.

He says the only heavy weapons Wahdat has are rocket launchers like the one the 10-year old boy cradles, which he is careful to note is not military aid from Tehran but merely booty captured from government stock.

It is hard to believe the steel-grey rocket launcher with its Persian-language inscription is not Iranian aid. But on the other hand it is true that Wahdat fighters are so poorly armed with heavy weapons that they have had motor-mechanics construct long-range rocket launchers from welded steel pipes which they mount on simple 2-wheeled chassis for mobile use.

Hezb-e-Wahdat, or Unity Party, is a curious assembly of Shiite Hazara factions, originally nine in total, formed with Iranian guidance during the Afghan Jehad, or Holy Crusade, to defend their homeland which is the central mountainous region of Afghanistan called Hazarajat.

Due to its isolation, the invading Red Army relatively ignored Hazarajat during the 10-year Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. But nevertheless the Hazaras became well-armed and politically inspired enough to achieve the muscle and motivation to ascend the Afghan social ladder.

Traditionally ranked lowest in the pecking order, Hazaras were farmers in the countryside or day-labourers and household servants in the cities.

Today they are demanding their national rights, by which they mean a proportional share in the fledgling government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, which has not yet been granted to their satisfaction.

Hence the fighting.

It is this sense of political destiny that fuels the Hazara towards a common goal, for like the other mojahedin factions - and despite the "unity" of their name - Wahdat is essentially a collection of disparate entities among whom are not only mojahedin veterans and former communist elements but also student newcomers.

Among the students is a self-styled "moderate" group who are not only anti-mojahedin but, like the veterans of the Iran-Iraq war, they are strongly anti-Iran, although in apparent contradiction they express their admiration for the deceased Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni.

"We pay a big respect to Khomeyni himself, but we do not trust the others that followed," they say.

Bangladesh

Home Minister, Burmese Counterpart Discuss Refugees

BK2505130893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The home ministers of Bangladesh and Burma have expressed the hope that the repatriation of Burmese refugees will be geared up in the coming days. At a meeting held between the two sides in Dhaka today, they expressed the desire to complete the repatriation in a spirit of understanding and considering each other's difficulties. The home minister of Burma, Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, arrived in Dhaka last Sunday [23 May]. He led an 11-member delegation of his country to the talks. The eight-member Bangladesh delegation was led by the home minister, Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

Burmese Minister Calls on Premier

BK2605133793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The visiting Burmese home minister, Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in Dhaka today. During the meeting, the Burmese home minister assured his government's all-out cooperation in preserving the age-old good bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that an early solution would be found to the Rohingya refugee problem.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said fine relations have existed between Bangladesh and Burma for a long time. She said this relationship can be further strengthened through the speedy resolution of the Rohingya refugee problem.

India

Police Stop Tibetans From Storming PRC Embassy

BK2605084093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 28 (AFP)—Police ambushed a group of Tibetans on Wednesday [26 May] as they sneaked into New Delhi's diplomatic zone and tried to storm the Chinese embassy to protest a crackdown on demonstrations in Lhasa, police said.

Police detained nine of the Tibetans in the Chanakyapuri enclave following a brief scuffle with the protesters near the embassy gates, thwarting their plan to storm the barricaded embassy and burn a Chinese flag.

"We were waiting for them, and we got them," said Chanakyapuri police chief Suvashish Chowdhury, adding that besides shouting anti-Chinese slogans the protesters did not offer much resistance.

Demonstrations in New Delhi's diplomatic enclave are prohibited.

Earlier, Tibetan activists here said they would burn the Chinese flag in protest against the suppression of anti-Chinese demonstrations in the Tibetan capital.

Several thousand Tibetans confronted Chinese security forces on Monday and Tuesday in Lhasa to protest price hikes. But the demonstrations soon became anti-Chinese, witnesses said.

The Tibetan activists here charged that three activists had died in an ensuing crackdown on protesters.

Meanwhile, the Tibetan government in exile in northern India, citing "unconfirmed reports," added that numerous people had also been arrested.

More than 100,000 Tibetans led by their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, fled to India in 1959 after the Chinese brutally crushed an uprising in Lhasa.

Minister Visits Gulf To Counter Pakistan Campaign

BK2605120593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 May 93

[Commentary by Lalith Sethi, former special representative of THE STATESMAN]

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. R.L. Bhatia's visit to Oman and UAE [United Arab Emirates] this week has sought to reassure India's traditional and close friends that there is no change in this country's foreign policy. Pakistani propaganda has sought to malign India since the visit of the Israeli deputy premier and foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, of a shift away from its support to West Asian interests. Mr. Bhatia, who is urbane and well versed in the art of understatement, has tried to correct any wrong impressions that anti-India moves might have sought to create.

India remains steadfast in its support to the Arab cause and peace and mutual settlement between the adversaries. But India remains opposed to aggression and retention of fruits of aggression. Occupied Arab territories must go back to the Arab nations. This has found appreciation in Oman and UAE where Mr. Bhatia has completed his visits. He is in Tunis today. Mr. Bhatia has been able to secure endorsement of the United Arab Emirates to steps against terrorism as no nation can afford to approve of terrorism, whether it is state-sponsored terrorism or by agencies abetted by certain states. Mr. Bhatia met the UAE foreign minister, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid [as heard] on Monday night. Both leaders agreed that India and UAE would work together to face challenges posed by terrorism and step up cooperation in security measures. They agreed that terrorism is a growing problem which leads to instability in various regions. Mr. Bhatia is understood to have drawn attention to Pakistani complicity in Bombay explosions in

March and the initial escape of prime suspects the Memon brothers to West Asia and later to Pakistan.

Earlier, Mr. Bhatia's discussion with the Omanese leader culminated into India reaching into agreement with that country to supply natural gas by pipeline to this country in a big way. This is to feed many new gas-based power plants and possibly some petrochemical complexes. Similar agreements could be reached with other nations in West Asia, including Iran, at a time when appropriate offers are received and can be converted into concrete projects.

India's economic ties with the Gulf region are close and nearly half a million Indian professionals and skilled workers contribute to the running of projects and plants. The largest number of Indians is in Dubayy. Their presence is appreciated by both India and UAE. Shaykh Zayid and Mr. Bhatia agreed to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation. They discussed new areas of investment and reviewed the progress of joint projects. Mr. Bhatia's mission to the Gulf has been mounted without loss of time as India cannot afford to let grass grow under its feet, particularly because Pakistan not only indulges in infiltration from across the Line of Control in Kashmir but also foments terrorism to disturb the peace in the valley of Kashmir to the detriment of Kashmiris who have lost lives as well as their living with the distruption of tourism.

India has documented evidence up-to-date of Pakistan's mala fide actions and intentions and the shaykhs of the Gulf, peace-loving as they are, cannot remain unconcerned about state terrorism against a peaceful nation like India. The terrorists blackmail, respect no frontiers, and link with drug mafia. As it is, the Gulf nations can ill afford to overlook it at their own peril. Besides, India, has an excellent and reliable source of high-quality finished goods, equipment, engineering products, consumer durables, electronics, food, and raw materials at the Gulf nations' doorsteps at possibly the lowest prices in the world. Such purchases also enhance India's capacity to secure energy supplies from the Gulf. There is an excess of petroleum production over demand and India is emerging as one of the largest buyers of petroleum and gas in this part of the world. Besides, India is now recognized as one of the best and most reliable training ground for scientific engineeing skills and even in humanities its record is enviable, particularly because the fees payable in India are almost one-tenth or one-twentieth of those payable in the West. India remains one of the Gulf's best bets in a number of areas.

Congress-I Leader Demands Party Apology for Mosque Attack

BK2505130493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 25 May 93

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (AFP)—Trouble is brewing in India's ruling Congress (I) party again after a senior leader called for a public apology for the razing of the Babri mosque and launched an implicit attack on Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh's comments at a hurriedly convened press conference here after the party's debacle in nation-wide byelections have sparked off an expected war of words in the Congress (I).

Singh, 62, denied he was trying to shift the focus of the upcoming May 29-30 All India Congress Committee (AICC) session at Jagdishpur in northern India, called to devolve power to villages and town councils, with his own agenda.

But his supporters, as if acting in concert, simultaneously voiced concern over the Congress (I)'s shock defeat in 12 of 16 seats in provincial assemblies in polling on May 19.

"He (Arjun Singh) is at it again," a Congress source said. "Now we are bound to have fireworks at the AICC (session)," added a party official.

Arjun Singh, who has never disguised his contempt for Rao's leadership, demanded Sunday [23 May] that the Congress party offer an unqualified apology for the destruction of the 16th century Babri mosque in Ayodhya December 6.

"The apology would pave the way for reshaping the psyche of the minorities in the aftermath of the tragic events leading up to Ayodhya and beyond," Singh said, referring to the bloody Hindu-Muslim violence which followed the mosque sacrilege.

India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had offered a public apology after India's crushing military defeat by China in 1962, and his daughter Indira Gandhi followed suit in 1977 after the Congress' poll rout, he added.

"We do not have leaders of their stature any more," the political veteran said in an obvious dig at Rao, 71, who only hours earlier left for Central Asia on an official tour.

Sensitive to criticism from its own flock, Congress (I) General Secretary Sushil Kumar Shinde said the question of tendering an apology by the party "did not arise."

Arjun Singh's comments also came a day after it was clear that the ruling party had lost 12 provincial seats across six states to the divided opposition. The loss included both seats in Rao's southern home state of Andhra Pradesh.

One Congress candidate won only by 500 votes.

The only consolation was the Congress (I)'s resounding win in a parliamentary constituency in the northern state of Punjab where Sikh militants are fighting for independence.

On Monday, Arjun Singh indicated that he did not agree with the Congress spokesman's comments that only the Punjab result reflected the "national mood".

Three Congress (I) dissidents who are known Arjun Singh supporters went a step further, dismissing the spokesman's claim as "fantastic nonsense".

They also sought a public apology from the "Congress leadership"—meaning Rao—for the Ayodhya razing, saying the entire party should not be blamed for Rao's failure to keep his promise to protect the mosque.

The dissidents were among those who, with the tacit backing of Arjun Singh, launched a high-pitched campaign early this year demanding that Rao should quit as Congress (I) president for not devoting enough time for party affairs.

But their revolt was crushed at an AICC session in March where loyalists re-elected the premier as the party chief. Since then, both Arjun Singh and the dissidents had been lying low.

The dissidents' latest statement came as the Congress (I) was facing sure defeat in Patna, the second of two parliamentary constituencies which also went to the polls May 19.

"I am not happy with the results," added Food and Civil Supplies minister A.K. Anthony, a longtime critic of Congress (I) leaders over the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics.

Devendra Pandey, a Congress leader in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state where the mosque was located, Monday called Arjun Singh's statements "a political stunt to fool people, particularly Muslim brothers."

Added a federal minister: "All that Arjun Singh wants is to make it known that he can still take on Rao and is still in the race for the prime minister's post. "God alone knows how long Rao can keep him in the ministry.

Party Spokesman Reacts

BK2505125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The question of offering an apology for the 6 December incident at Ayodhya [when Babri Mosque was demolished] can be considered by the Congress-I Working Committee if the issue is raised in its next meeting. This was stated by the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, to newspersons in New Delhi today. He felt that there is no need for the party to offer any apology as the unfortunate incident was the result of betrayal by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. He reiterated that the BJP should immediately apologize for the incident.

Minister Rules Out Pressures on Dunkel Proposals

BK2605042093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The agriculture minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, says the government will not permit unrestricted patenting of seeds' and plants' genetic materials. Inaugurating the Milk Day celebrations of the Karnataka Cooperative Producers Union at Bangalore, Dr. Jakhar said the center will not yield to external pressures on the Dunkel proposals. He said the government will not accept any assistance that goes against the interest of farmers. Mr. Jakhar welcomed constructive criticism of the draft agriculture policy now being considered by the parliament and said a comprehensive insurance policy for farmers was on the table.

Political Parties Oppose Move To Repatriate Chakmas

BK2505122393 Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 May 93 p 5

[Text] Agartala May 16 (UNI)—All political parties, including CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] led ruling Left Front and opposition Congress have opposed the 'forced' repatriation of 56,000 Bangladeshi tribal refugees sheltered in six south Tripura camps for the past seven years.

Chief Minister and veteran tribal leader Dasarath Deb and former Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty told newspersons here that the Bangladeshi tribal refugees, mostly Chakmas, were very keen to go back to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh. However, the State Government would not apply any force to repatriate them.

"We requested the Bangladeshi delegation, which visited the refugee camps on April 9 to persuade the refugees to go back to Bangladesh". They said adding that safety and security of the refugees would be ensured.

Mr. Deb said though the refugee issue was an internal problem of Bangladesh, as a neighbour India was willing to help solve the longstanding tangle.

Tribal-based regional party - Tripura Upajati Juba Samity (TUJS) has strongly opposed the Indian government's move for repatriating the refugees on the basis of verbal assurance from Bangladesh. It urged the Union Government to involve the United Nations and the Amnesty International in the repatriation process.

TUJS president and former vice-chairman of the State Planning Board, Shyama Charan Tripura, in a letter to Union Minister for External Affairs Dinesh Singh, termed as "unfortunate and unpractical" the decision to send back the Chakma refugees from Tripura to Bangladesh based on oral assurance from that country in regard to security, refund of land and property.

Mr. Tripura said in the past a good number of refugees had gone back to the CHT in Bangladesh after getting similar assurances but they did not get back anything and became "landless and homeless refugees in their own country". The same fate await these 56,000 refugees, he claimed.

Senior Congress leader and former Minister of the coalition government Ratan Chakraborty said his party was opposed to "forced" repatriation of these hapless refugees. The Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Party, and Janata Dal expressed similar views.

Union Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Salman Khurshid, during his discussions with the State Chief Minister and the Bangladesh Communication Minister here recently, had made it clear that the problem of Chakma refugees was basically an internal issue of Bangladesh but India was fully committed to help solve the tangle.

Indian and Bangladeshi officials would meet on Wednesday [May 19] to formulate modalities for repatriation of the refugees.

Army Following Two-Prong Strategy in Kashmir

BK2605025093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are taking steps to ensure that the common people face minimum inconvenience during the cordon and search operation. For instance, this is how one such operation was conducted at (Nathir) village on the outskirts of Srinagar:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Security forces first separate the young from the old in an open area. Basic courtesies are not forgotten. Free medical help is provided to the village elders. The younger men are paraded in front of vehicles. Masked men in these vehicles then identify those who are associated with the militants. At the same time, the entire village is sealed to ensure that militants do not slip away. The basic strategy in these search and cordon operations is two-fold: Intense pressure is maintained on the militants, while ensuring that the general public is not harassed. In the village itself, the women folks are left behind and not put to any inconvenience. Acting on tip-off and in the presence of village elders, security forces search houses for illegal arms and ammunition. [end recording]

Export Growth Rate Below Target

BK2505132093 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 May 93 p 15

[By Hindustan Times Correspondent]

[Text] NEW DELHI, May 17—India's exports in U.S. dollar terms during 1992-93 have recorded a growth rate of only 3.61 per cent. It is far below the targeted growth rate of 13.6 per cent for the year envisaged by the Eighth Five Year Plan document. The target was later revised by the Commerce Ministry to 6 per cent.

According to Commerce Ministry announcement today, in the U.S. dollar terms, India's exports during April-March 1992-93 are estimated at U.S. $18,420.49 million as against U.S. $17,778.69 million during 1991-92.

On the other hand, the imports during the year have recorded almost fourtimes the growth rate of exports. In U.S. dollar terms, imports during April-March 1992-93 are estimated at U.S. $21,725.54 million as against U.S. $19,388.84 million during 1991-92. This shows a growth rate of 12.05 per cent.

The yawning gap between exports and imports have resulted in almost doubling the trade deficit as compared to the previous year. The trade deficit during April-March 1992-93 is estimated at U.S. $ 3,305.04 million as against U.S. $1,610.15 million in 1991-92.

However, the performance of exports is higher to GCA [General Currency Area] countries. During April-March 1992-93, exports to to GCA countries are estimated at U.S. $17,749.98 million as against U.S. $16,013.81 million in April-March 1991-92 indicating a growth rate of 10.84 per cent.

The export performance in the month of March 1993 has been somewhat encouraging. The export growth has shown signs of revival after having suffered a setback during December 1992 and January 1993. Exports have recovered during the months of February 1993 and March 1993 registering a growth rate of 2.81 per cent during April- February 1992-93 and 3.61 per cent during April-March 1992-93, according to official spokesman.

The trade deficit during the year 1992-93 works out at U.S. $3.3 billion, the lowest during the years 1982-83 to 1992-93, barring the unrepresentative year of 1991-92. The import bill of U.S. $21.73 billion during 1992-93 though higher than import bill of U.S. $19.39 billion during 1991-92 is lower than that of U.S. $24.07 billion during 1990-91.

The economic survey for 1992-93 placed in Parliament recently, has indicated that the total exports during the year may not exceed U.S. $19 million. It maintains that the current accounts deficit in 1992-93 is expected to be around U.S. $7 billion, reflecting the revival of imports to more normal levels. This deficit is being financed through a combination of traditional financing sources and exceptional financing.

The Eighth Plan projections have envisaged the economy growing at the rate of 5.6 per cent per annum with export growth to be in the region 13.8 per cent per annum and the imports limited to 8 per cent per annum.

According to Commerce Ministry sources, in view of the measures announced in the Budget to stimulate the present sluggish growth rate of exports, the balance of payments position will considerably improve during 1993-94. While the efforts would be to achieve the

export growth rate of nearly 18 per cent, the imports are likely to be restricted to the current level of around 12 per cent.

Iran

Military Source Confirms Air Attack in Iraq

LD2505151693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] According to remarks made by a military source, in the wake of repeated border violations by the hypocrites group [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and their acts of sabotage in the border provinces, and following the protests lodged with the Iraqi Government by the Islamic Republic of Iran asking Iraq to halt these violations, to control its borders, and to prevent a repetition of these attacks, in clashes and pursuit of the hypocrites at dawn this morning the planes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed the headquarters of the hypocrites inside Iraqi territory and inflicted heavy blows on them.

The military sources added: It is obvious that the Iraqi Government will be held responsible for the consequences of these attacks.

Letter Sent to Butrus-Ghali

NC2605051493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] In a letter to the UN secretary general, the Islamic Republic of Iran has described yesterday's attack by fighters of our Air Force on bases belonging to terrorist and subversive elements inside Iraqi territory as an appropriate act of self-defense based on Paragraph 51 of the UN Charter.

IRNA reports that in this letter, our country's ambassador to the United Nations stated that to respond to subversive and terrorist acts by a number of organized mercenaries who are receiving Iraqi financial, weapons, training, and intelligence assistance, fighters of our Air Force carried out limited necessary and appropriate operations yesterday against the military bases of these groups inside Iraqi territory.

In this letter, Iran has stressed that yesterday's attack by the Air Force is in no way inconsistent with Security Council Resolution 598 or the cease-fire regulations between the two countries. The letter also states that in the past, Iran has repeatedly informed the United Nations about attacks by mercenary groups that enjoy the Iraqi Government's propaganda facilities and also has warned the Iraqi Government of the consequences of such terrorist activities.

Majles Official Comments

LD2605122093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] The Islamic Majles held an open session today. We draw your attention to a report by our correspondent on the remarks made by the deputy speaker of the Majles during today's open session:

[Unidentified correspondent] Deputy Speaker Hasan Rowhani, who was chairing today's open session of the Majles, offered congratulations on the anniversary of the Islamic Majles, and stressed: The Islamic Majles has been the most Islamic, the most popular, and the most powerful Majles in our country's history and the contemporary history of the world. [passage omitted]

Mr. Rowhani lauded the destruction of the hypocrites' [Mojahedin-e Khalq] base by the the fast-flying pilots of our country's air force as a decisive response to the border violation of these foreign agents, and praised the air force pilots. He did not rule out that the action of the hypocrites in the western border areas of the country has something to do with the approaching date of the presidential elections. He stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran will never show the slightest hesitation in defending the state and in cutting off the hands of the aggressor; and even if the biggest world power were to plan to attack our country, our heroic nation will still not show any hesitation to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Mr. Hasan Rowhani also stressed: The Iraqi regime should realize that the interests of the region's nations will be served only through good-neighborliness and peaceful coexistence.

Nateq-Nuri on Raid on MKO Targets, Other Issues

LD2505193793 Tehran IRNA in English 1228 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—The Majles speaker today confirmed that Iran had launched air strikes against bases of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in southern Iran today. Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri reiterated that the "recent futile movements by MKO members in the southern parts of the country were aimed at overshadowing the forthcoming presidential elections (due to be held on June 11)."

"The muna'qeen's (hypocrites) movements are not something new. Once in a while, they embark on such acts in a bid to announce they still exist and to boost the morale of their advocates," Nateq-Nuri told foreign and domestic reporters.

The Majles speaker was speaking on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the Iranian Majles (May 28).

Asked whether Iran has given up the death verdict on the apostate author Salman Rushdie, Nateq-Nuri said "apostacy and the verdict of death against Salman Rushdie is irrevocable. "Long before the late imam's fatwa, anybody insulting Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was considered an apostate according to the rulings of all Muslim ulema," he made it clear.

The Iranian Government has neither hired nor despatched anybody to execute Salman Rushdie, Nateq-Nuri said, adding "his (Rushdie's) execution is the duty of all Muslims throughout the world."

On protest of a group of Tehran University students against the possible visit to Tehran of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, he said "all important issues of the country such as resumption of hajj pilgrimage (by Iranians) and the probable visit of King Fahd are approved by the leader of the Islamic revolution (Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i)."

Questioned about video and satellite programmes, the speaker replied that problems related to video have been discussed in details by the Supreme Council in charge of the Cultural Revolution. As for satellite broadcasts, he underlined the need for Iranian officials to conduct extensive cultural research so as to dissuade people from being distracted by satellite T.V. programs. "An anti-satellite campaign requires legislation, the Majles will do its best in this regard," the hojjat ol-eslam vowed.

On strengthening of the country's defence power, Nateq-Nuri said this is not something which is internationally prohibited, nor does it run counter to any international regulations especially in a country like Iran which needs reconstructing after an imposed war (1989-88). Referring to Iran's 850 million dollar defense budget, he dismissed the hue and cry of certain circles abroad that Iran was turning into a regional power. "We have time and again declared that our defense budget is less that many of regional states," he said.

The speaker also brushed aside the allegations of the Turkish interior minister on Monday that Iran was involved in last February's assassination [of] Turkish journalist Yugur Mumcu.

"We have announced frequently that we are against terrorism. On the other hand those leveling such accusation do not offer any evidence to prove their charges," he said.

Further on Remarks

LD2505172093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpts] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri was interviewed by foreign and domestic correspondents today. [passage omitted]

Regarding Iran's foreign policy, in light of the propaganda by certain regional countries and irresponsible remarks inside the country, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: We do not wish to sow tension and conflict in the region, but if certain rights are denied to us in certain areas, we will react accordingly.

He added: We have always said that Iran's foreign policy is formulated at the National Security Council, endorsed by the esteemed leader, and implemented by the Foreign Ministry. Our system is Islam and it operates under the auspices of the Supreme Jurisconsult. Therefore, if there is opposition from a few people, it is condemned as irrelevant.

He added: What we pursue in our foreign policy is the establishment of complete security and stability in the region. We stress today to our neighbors in the Persian Gulf littoral states that the security of the region must be maintained by the countries in the region and that, as a stable Islamic country, we can make a useful contribution in that respect. We reiterate that we are not a threat to neighboring and regional countries.

He pointed out: The arrogant powers strive to create chaos in the region and sow tension. But we say to the Gulf states that foreign powers are not your protectors, they pursue their own interests.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri described as positive the performance of the government in the past four years. He said: Considering that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government took over responsibility after the war, it has been on the whole successful in its programs. The Majles speaker considered that the implementation of the policy of economic adjustment in the country is necessary. He added: The government has to adopt the mechanisms needed to protect the labor force. Thus, certain steps have been taken in this connection.

In reply to a question about the Western media's propaganda sensationalism concerning the government's failure to meet its foreign debts in time, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: This is a political move, because delay in repayment of debts is something that happens frequently everywhere in the world. Of course, we summoned the relevant officials to the Majles to explain, but their explanations made sense and had an economic dimension to them which convinced the Majles.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said that it is inevitable and natural that the price of certain goods will rise because of the implementation of the policy of economic adjustment. However, he strongly rejected the rumor that bread and wheat prices will rise.

The speaker of the Majles also considered that it is necessary to strengthen the military potential of the country's defense force and to make up for the damage inflicted on it during the war. He said: The cost of reconstruction and of securing our country's defense needs is $850 million, and we think that strengthening the defensive potential of the country is wise and something that has to be done.

Government To Release 100 More Iraqi POW's

LD2605093693 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—Iran has decided to release one hundred Iraqi prisoners of war unilaterally, an informed source announced here Wednesday [26 May].

He said that the step, taken following negotiations between officials and expert delegations of the two countries, was aimed at further accelerating release of the remaining Iranian POWs in Iraq.

The source added that release of the Iraqi POWs (captured in the course of 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war) would take place with the coordination of the International Red Cross.

He expressed hope that the measure would pave the way for the release of all Iranian POWs still in Iraq and those who had been captured in border areas in recent years, and would also determine the fate of those missing in action.

Iran, in a good will gesture, released some 3,500 Iraqi POWs at intervals last year after holding negotiations with Iraqi officials.

Foreign Ministry Rejects West's Bosnia Plan

LD2605112693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry rejected the new plan drawn up by the West and Russia for Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a statement released in this connection, the Foreign Ministry pointed out: The hesitation and delay of international organizations in carrying out their crucial task of eliminating aggression and restoring peace, which is the basis of the UN Charter, led to the adoption of a plan outside UN fundamentals to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This plan is not the guarantor of peace in the Balkan region under any circumstances.

The statement adds: The latest decision of the UN Security Council's permanent and influential members and some of their allies to overlook the peace plan accepted by the Muslims and the step-by-step surrender to the demands of the Serbs is certainly an offer of greater opportunity to the Serbs to continue their genocide and bloodshed and to consolidate their positions in the occupied territories and it is ultimately a violation of the UN Charter.

The statement called upon all international societies to use all their influence in international forums and to exploit every legal means and unilateral or multilateral diplomatic talks to defend the rights of the Muslims; and to undertake an effective measure to end the Serbs' delaying tactics.

The concluding part of the statement says: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while drawing attention of world public opinion and all free-thinkers of the world to the tyranny to which the defenseless and oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected, points out: As the experience of the past few years has demonstrated, rewarding the aggressor or even remaining silent and indifferent in the face of aggression, will lead to more law-breaking and other forms of aggression. This without doubt will burden the international community with greater costs, similar to what is happening in occupied Palestine today, as the occupiers of Jerusalem subject the original inhabitants of Palestine to countless cruelty; and a new phenomenon of the Bosnian homeless, the same as the Palestinian homeless, will appear.

Commentary Criticizes Plan

LD2605133093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 26 May 93

[Unattributted commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] issued a statement condemning the proposal on Bosnia put forward by the four permanent members of the Security Council. They declared that the plan does not meet the demands of Bosnian Muslims and the world of Islam and that it fully legitimizes the crimes and aggressions of the Serbs. [passage omitted]

The question that can be asked by political observers is: Why was the plan for the creation of safe areas rejected by the authors of the new plan whenever it was put forward in the past nine months when more territory was under Muslim control? Their excuse was that the plan would intensify Serbian attacks and increase Muslim refugees and would lead to the official recognition of regions under the control of Serbs. Now that the Serbs are occupying 70 percent of the territory, the project is being put forward and accepted without any problems by those who rejected it before. [passage omitted]

What is interesting is that in spite of all the propaganda hue and cry by the United States and its allies concerning the endorsement of the safe areas plan, they declared that they are not in a position to strengthen their forces in Bosnia due to shortages of manpower and funds. Even the United States declared that it cannot dispatch security forces to that region to put the plan into action.

These admissions demonstrate that the authors of this plan indirectly consider that this plan cannot be put into practice. As for the second part of the plan that concerns the dispatch of troops to Bosnia, this is a decision that goes exactly against the demand of the government of Bosnia. Alija Izetbegovic recently called for the immediate withdrawal of UN forces from Bosnia so as to remove any pretext about these forces lives being in danger, so that Bosnian Muslim forces may, with this step, be able to defend their rights as much as they can.

But the decision to dispatch more troops to the region does not solve the main problem.

Finally, the third part of the plan talks of the formation of an international war crimes court. This plan is being accepted as a new method to prevent the use of force to solve international disputes and as a guarantee for the illegality of war and use of force in regulating international relations. It should be said that this step once again demonstrates the double-standard policy of the United Nations. On the one hand, it opens the field for extensive maneuvers by these very war criminals that it seeks to punish, and, on the other hand, it claims that it seeks to punish them.

In any case, in the opinion of political observers, the acceptance of such arrangements weakens the chances of military intervention and the rejection of the arms embargo. Instead of serious actions to expel Serbian rebels from the occupied territories, it leaves unresolved in the long run the main problem in the region.

The Vance-Owen plan called for Serbian forces immediately to evacuate the regions they controlled but, with this new plan, the path will open once again for useless political negotiations that will buy time for the Serbs and give them the opportunity to completely occupy the remainder of the territory, adding this to the 70 percent that they already control.

President Receives Bosnian Envoy

LD2605103393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The new ambassadors of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kenya were separately received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning when they submitted their credentials.

According to the Presidential Public Relations Office, during the meeting with the ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina the president expressed his pleasure with the opening of that country's embassy in Iran and referred to the current events in Bosnia. Criticizing the international forums and certain powerful countries for their inaction and negligence, he said: The current situation in your region is a strange, dark spot in the heart of Europe and for the so-called democratic countries and advocates of human rights. He added: This blot will be recorded in the history of powerful countries and international organizations forever.

Pointing out the innocence of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The name of Serbs, as a group of aggressors and toughs, will be recorded in the pages of history forever, and history will also testify to the innocence and nobility of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The president said that the disregard of Western countries for Serbian crimes is a grave mistake. He said: No aggressor has been, or will be, able to uproot a nation through massacre and pressure, especially in our time. If those countries think they can uproot a pure and noble nation through such crimes they are greatly mistaken, and what will be left will be nothing but long life and strength for the Bosnian people and shame and disgrace for the false advocates of democracy.

Wishing success for the Bosnian ambassador, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the resistance of the people of that country against the aggressors is praiseworthy.

At the start of the meeting the new Bosnian ambassador said: I wish to convey the deep and heartfelt respects of President Izetbegovic and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the esteemed leader of the Iranian revolution, Your Excellency, and the Iranian nation.

Referring to Iran's humanitarian aid to the Muslim and oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina he said: On behalf of a nation which has been subjected to the most savage onslaught and crimes in contemporary history, I am grateful to the government and people of friendly and fraternal Iran for their help. He added: I cannot express my heartfelt feelings for Iran in words and I consider Iran to be my second home.

According to the same report, Mr. Salim Jum'a, the new Kenyan ambassador, also presented his credentials to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said: Kenya wishes to expand its friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He praised Iran for holding an exhibition in Nairobi.

Welcoming the cooperation between Iran and Kenya, the president said: Iran is serious about expanding its cooperation with African countries. We welcome the expansion of mutual ties.

Students Protest Invitation for Visit by Saudi King

NC2505151993 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 25 (AFP)—More than 100 university students here on Tuesday [25 May] protested against an expected visit to Iran by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, denouncing him as the enemy of the Islamic revolution.

The protesters at Tehran University slammed their government's "invitation" to the monarch of Saudi Arabia, which supported Iraq during the eight-year war it launched against Iran shortly after the 1979 revolution.

"The invitation to Fahd is incompatible with the principles of the revolution and the words of Imam Khomeyni," one protest banner said, referring to the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, founder of the Islamic republic.

The demonstrators were prevented from marching to the foreign ministry as they had not obtained a permit from the interior ministry, the organizers said.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani [as received] on a visit to Saudi Arabia last

week delivered a message to Fahd from Rafsanjani, who voiced hope the two leaders could meet in Iran or Saudi Arabia, informed sources here said.

The principle of such a summit was accepted but a date has not been set for it, they said. The foreign ministry here said last Wednesday that Fahd could visit Iran soon to meet Rafsanjani, in the first Saudi-Iranian summit since the revolution.

Relations between Tehran and Riyadh soured after the 1979 revolution which toppled the shah. Saudi Arabia alleged Iran was trying to export its brand of Islam to the conservative oil-rich country.

Diplomatic ties were broken off totally in 1988 and restored in 1991.

In Riyadh, meanwhile, King Fahd said that on the basis of his meeting with Velayati, Iran appeared ready to improve ties with Saudi Arabia, according to the Saudi media.

Fahd issued his remarks at a cabinet meeting on Monday, the media reported. But he made no reference to a possible summit with Rafsanjani in Iran.

Larijani Says U.S. Seeks To Replace Saudi Rulers

NC2505145493 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 May 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "The United States and the Saudi Rule"]

[Text] 1. As was foreseen during the U.S.-Iraqi conflict in Kuwait, the policy of changing the rule (and rulers) in Saudi Arabia has been overtly started by Washington. Following the formation of the "Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights" [CDLR] by six Saudi ulema and lawyers and the publication of the first "open" letter by this group, the Saudi Government has announced that all these people have been dismissed from their jobs, that their offices have been closed down, and that their leader, a physics professor, has been arrested. Saudi Arabia's fatwa council has also declared this group defunct. But the U.S. Government has officially stated that this group held consultations with the American Embassy and that it is in constant contact with a representative of the group. It even went further to say that: The American Embassy in Riyadh has undertaken to study the government's confrontation with the group and to brief Washington!

In my opinion, we should assume that U.S. moves to change the rule in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates have begun.

2. What political objectives does the United States pursue in these extensive activities? There are at least three major points that are noteworthy:

First of all, in Washington's opinion the current rules do not have tPe power and capability to create a reliable regional system that can ensure America's long-term (and vital!) interests and, in case of an incident, America's extensive and rapid intervention is required. Therefore, after ousting Iraq from Kuwait and weakening Baghdad, the region's political situation should change and more efficient political "elements" should be installed.

Second, the regional Arab countries should play a more active role in confronting Islam. None of these countries are willing to officially declare a secular system. On the contrary, Islamic slogans are observed more intensely in these countries than elsewhere. And when the breeze of Islamism emanating from Islamic Iran starts to sweep through these places, it will very easily be able to affect the hearts and minds of the Islamic ummah in the region. Therefore, America wants these countries, especially Saudi Arabia, to become models of completely antireligious and anti-Islamic rule so that each year the millions of Muslims who go on the hajj will—instead of reviving Islam—be fed on a diet of liberalism, licentiousness, "modernism," and secularism and return to their homelands with these ideas. In other words: the holy Kaaba should become the main base for the struggle against Islam and this base should be used to the fullest against so-called Islamic fundamentalism.

Third, the objective is to pave the grounds in the Persian Gulf for extensive Israeli activities. And even though the regional rulers had previously agreed with Baker, Bush's secretary of state, to include Israel in the issue of regional expansion, nevertheless the current rulers are cautious. And if America is unable to open up this area to Israel, a second Camp David agreement will not be signed.

3. The rulers in the region and especially in Saudi Arabia are in an extremely difficult position. On the one hand the Americans have an active military and economic presence off their shores and on their lands, and on the other they have kept Saddam's regime alive as a horrific monster they can use any time they want to terrify them. More important still is that the masses whose support is needed are not there! Therefore, there should be no doubt that even though the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh has stated that the embassy's contacts with the CDLR are completely legal and within the framework of the embassy's activities and that Washington-Riyadh relations are "excellent!," nevertheless the only natural outcome of all this process will be implementation of the American plan and the overthrow of the current rule. Moreover, there are some strong facts showing that Egypt is trying to play an active role in this political project; this is something America needs from certain perspectives, since fulfillment of the extensive policy it has in mind can always get out of control.

The impact of the political tension stemming from this policy will in no way be lesser than the impact of Iraq's military action in Kuwait. Of course America will try to spread this tension within a suitable time frame so that its impact will not be very strong. Under such circumstances, our diplomatic machinery should prepare itself

to confront—in a wise and calculated manner—such an extensive effort to create tension in the region and to explain the dimensions of this effort to the interested and influential countries.

Commentary Discusses Velayati Tour, Gulf Relations

LD2505145693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 25 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Greetings dear listeners. Let me draw your attention to today's first commentary about the continuation of the foreign minister's tour of neighboring Arab countries.

Informed circles say that Dr. Velayati's talks with the leaders of neighboring Arab countries point to the existence of a deep understanding about current developments in the region and show that efforts are being made to consolidate goodneighborly relations even further.

Iran wishes to have extensive relations with its Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf region. It believes that security in the region can only be provided through the collective participation of the governments of the region and that the presence of foreign forces does nothing but compound problems. The interesting point is that, if foreign powers speak of protecting their own interests in the Persian Gulf and if they send forces to the region, their actions are deemed to be legitimate and legal, whereas if Iran sets out to strengthen its friendly ties with neighbors, it is immediately accused of having designs on other countries.

Accusations claiming that Iran is trying to overthrow the governments of the region, helping international terrorism, or assisting radical organizations all fall within the framework of efforts to prevent good relations between Iran and its neighbors and to prevent the establishment of stability and security in the Persian Gulf.

At exactly the same time as Dr. Velayati's tour of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, some American officials issued warnings that Tehran had succeeded in improving its relations with its neighbors. What is the meaning of this warning? Does it not mean that the Persian Gulf region must remain tense so that there can be a justification for the political-military presence of foreigners?

Iran and other Persian Gulf countries have a long-standing history of ties, and their interests are inextricably intertwined. Specific issues such as security in the region and oil indicate the level of shared interest. However, the thing that terrifies foreign powers is the emergence of a greater understanding in the Persian Gulf region and the abandonment of past differences in favor of joint action toward the protection the region's real interests.

It has not yet been forgotten that when the plan was raised last year for the construction of a water pipeline from the Karun river to Qatar, foreign powers raised a great hue and cry. They described Iran's efforts to lessen the water shortage difficulties of neighboring Arab countries as interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

According to informed sources, it would seem from the atmosphere prevailing at the discussions between our country's foreign minister and the officials of neighboring countries that a uniform understanding exists about the importance of continuing friendship and of constructive and beneficial bilateral and multilateral cooperation among this group of Islamic countries. In addition, in view of the importance attached by Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries to Dr. Velayati's visit and to our president's message calling for solidarity between Islamic countries, it is clear that a strong will exists to oppose all efforts to sow dissension and all interference that is harmful to the collective interests and the security and stability of the region.

Commentary Notes Preconditions for Peace in Karabakh

LD2505152693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 25 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] According to news agencies, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has gone to Moscow to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Although no official explanation of the visit has yet been offered, informed sources are saying that the Armenian president is in Moscow to discuss the Karabakh peace initiative launched by Russia, Turkey, and the United States. [passage omitted]

Even though Russia, Turkey, and the United States are trying to lay the groundwork for direct talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Geneva, the realities on the ground suggest that it will be difficult for them to succeed in establishing peace.

The experience of the five-year-long dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the issue of sovereignty over Karabakh has shown that the successful establishment of peace in the region has two basic preconditions.

The first precondition is that both countries must take clear steps to demonstrate their goodwill and their serious wish to resolve the dispute. As long as Armenia is occupying a considerable part of Azerbaijani territory and, instead of unconditionally withdrawing from the region, setting unreasonable conditions, there cannot be any hope of peace.

The second precondition for the establishment of peace in the region is that all countries of the region must be involved in and cooperate toward finding solutions to regional disputes. Otherwise, any effort undertaken without the involvement and support of all the peace-loving countries of the region will have little chance of success.

Azerbaijani Ambassador Discusses Karabakh, Ties

NC2505153893 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 11 May 93 p 2

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Nasib Logman Ogly Nasibzade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, by HAMSHAHRI's political correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with a HAMSHAHRI correspondent, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Iran Dr. Nasibzade discussed the results of the talks between the Azerbaijani and Armenian heads of state in Ankara, the latest developments on the battlefront, Iran's role in the peace talks, the economic situation, and the situation of the parties in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On the results of the talks between the heads of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Ankara, he said: Azerbaijani President Elchibey had a half-hour meeting with Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan during the funeral ceremonies for Turgut Ozal and on the basis of a report that we have received from Baku, the two presidents agreed to accept the decisions adopted by the CSCE concerning the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict.

Commenting on the latest developments on the battlefront, Nasibzade said: After the occupation of Kelbadzhar and Lachin by the Armenians and their failure to occupy the strategic city of Fizuli, we have not been active in Karabakh because the issue is being discussed by the Security Council. Of course Azerbaijan is not satisfied with these discussions because the Security Council has not accepted Armenia's overt aggression toward Azerbaijan and has remained impartial. However, Azerbaijani officials have renewed their request to the UN secretary general and to the president of the Security Council and have asked that this issue be placed on the Security Council's agenda once again. Therefore, both sides are waiting for the upcoming Security Council meeting. Of course we have attached hopes to the CSCE's assistance by using the influence that it has on the United Nations so that the next phase of talks will resume. However, experience has shown that we should not attach hopes to international organizations but should rely only on the Azerbaijani nation.

In answer to a remark noting that the Popular Front and Elchibey came to power with the promise to solve the problem with Armenia and a question on how faithful they have been to this promise, he said: In the first months after the Popular Front and Elchibey came to power, we made great progress and regained some of the areas from the Armenian occupiers. But after a while the balance of power tipped in favor of the Armenians and the Russian Federation also started to strengthen Armenia. Reports that the Popular Front have published statements that the Karabakh conflict would be solved within three months are baseless. The current rule in Azerbaijan thought that it would not be very difficult to solve this problem, but now the situation is complicated and a number of countries are involved. In my opinion, Azerbaijan's problem is a problem of the world of Islam vis-a-vis the world of Christianity.

Asked how the CSCE channel can continue to be used for the peace talks if it fails to find a solution to the Karabakh crisis, he said: I think that all international organizations with good intentions to mediate between neighbors should continue their efforts. This is to the benefit of a solution to the conflict. But Azerbaijan should solve its problem politically and militarily because a large part of Azerbaijani territory is under occupation and we do not have the right to say that there is only one solution to the Karabakh conflict. There are two solutions to this conflict and each one is contingent on the other. In other words, Azerbaijan should become so strong both militarily and politically that no one would dream of occupying its territory.

On Iran's role in the peace talks between the two countries, he said: If a year or two ago Armenia accepted Iran's mediation in the peace talks, after occupying Kelbadzhar and Lachin and after Islamic Iran's president condemned this act, the Armenian side no longer accepts Iran's mediation. Hashemi-Rafsanjani overtly and strongly condemned the Armenian aggression and called on the Armenians to withdraw from Azerbaijani territory. This is at a time when during his recent meeting with the vice president of Azerbaijan, the Iranian president proposed that the two conflicting sides return to the situation that prevailed during the Tehran talks last year. In other words, he proposed that the Armenians withdraw from the newly occupied territories. Here I would like to add that Azerbaijan attaches great significance to Iran's mediating role and is ready for any type of cooperation with Iran.

Commenting on certain statements by Azerbaijani officials that have disappointed Iran, Nasibzade said: Iran and Azerbaijan are fraternal and neighboring countries with a common language and culture. We have a concordance of views with Iran on geopolitical and foreign trade issues. Azerbaijan considers Iran to be a transit route because it offers the shortest and easiest access to world waterways and we can export our crude oil via Iran. At any rate, the two countries were separated from each other for 200 years and now after this long period they are trying to reestablish relations. Of course it is only natural for some misunderstandings to exist between them. But we should study matters carefully and solve problems peacefully. I do not think there are any problems we cannot solve.

On the Popular Front's closeness to Turkey, he said: Turkey was the first country to recognize Azerbaijan's independence and to establish diplomatic relations with it. Turkey is a Muslim country and we have many cultural, ethnic, and linguistic similarities with it. Our bilateral relations are also very good. Of course we want to have very close relations with all countries. We even want to establish friendly relations with Armenia and the Russian Federation, but unfortunately we do not have good relations with them. Armenia and Russia are historically close and Armenia is considered Russia's base in the world of Islam.

In answer to a question on whether Azerbaijan has left the CIS forever or if the current separation is only temporary, he said: We were under Russian domination for years; now we want to live freely. Therefore, Azerbaijan's interests dictate that we do not become members of the so-called Commonwealth. Thus it is not an issue of tactics.

Commenting on Azerbaijan's cooperation with the Caspian Sea littoral countries, Nasibzade said: After the disintegration of the Soviet Union a vacuum was created in the area and some newly independent countries decided to create an organization to fill the vacuum. This organization has not yet adopted its final form, but its future is promising. Of course, Azerbaijan is now involved in a war and has not played an active role in establishing it, but it participates in all its activities.

In answer to a question on political freedoms and the situation of the parties in Azerbaijan, Nasibzade said: We were living under a dictatorship for several decades and we do not want a dictatorship after our independence. But we also know that any extremist movement is detrimental. Especially when a country is in a state of war, it cannot afford to lose its centralized nature and should concentrate all powers in one place. Thus, when Elchibey declared a state of emergency most of the parties accepted his decree and stated that they would suspend all political activities until the end of the war. Of course there are small parties that have not stopped their opposition to the current government. Under the law on political parties, all parties should be registered with the Ministry of Justice.

President Welcomes Expansion of Ties With Indonesia

LD2505163293 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today welcomed expansion of Iran's cooperation with Indonesia, calling it the most populous Muslim country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani in his meeting with visiting Indonesian Minister of State for Research and Technology Bacharuddin Habibie, expressed hope that the upcoming visit to Tehran of Indonesian President Gen. Suharto could serve the interests of the two Muslim nations as well as the region and the world.

The president who last year visited Jakarta for the Non-Aligned Summit meet, said Iran attaches importance to promotion of relations with Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Habibie in reply stated that his country was highly impressed by developments in Islamic Iran and learnt numerous lessons from the Islamic Revolution.

He also briefed Rafsanjani on the goals of the Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals Society, saying the society's aim is to strengthen Islamic faith and virtue, train expert and efficient generations and raise the standard of learning.

Habibie referred to common cultural bonds between Iran and Indonesia and said that the two countries follow independent policies.

Minister of Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Gharazi today exchanged views with Indonesian Minister of State for Research and Technology Bacharuddin Habibie, on sale of Iranian optical fibres and switching machines to Indonesia.

The 30-man delegation led by Habibie arrived here on Friday and over the past few days has visited Iranian telecommunications plants and related industries in the cities of Esfahan and Shiraz.

Habibie who is a telecommunications expert said at the meeting that Iran has the potential to take giant strides in research and technology over the next 5-10 years.

Gharazi who is head of the Iranian side at the Tehran-Jakarta Joint Economic Commission, welcomed further expansion of bilateral ties in the research, industrial and trade fields.

Indonesia's population stands at 180 million, 90 percent of whom are Muslims. Despite 350 years of Western, especially Dutch colonialist domination, it has been able to make developments in various industrial fields within a short time.

The Indonesian delegation has held talks with several senior Iranian officials and is to leave for home on Wednesday.

Culture Minister, Bangladeshi Official Confer

BK2505151693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Bangladesh and Iran have emphasized the need to increase cooperation in the fields of information, culture, education, and sports. Talks in this regard were held between the visiting Bangladesh minister for information, Barrister Nazmul Huda, and the Iranian minister for culture and religious affairs. They held discussions on the prospects of further strengthening the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

German Parliamentarians Praise Human Rights Situation

LD2505191493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Two German members of parliament have described as positive the human rights situation in Iran at the close of their trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two, who are also members of the leadership council of the Free Democratic Party, referred to the 3.5 million refugees which Iran has accepted and said: It has to be admitted that, in spite of economic difficulties and the extensive destructions brought about by the [Iraq-Iran] war, the effort has been tremendous.

The German members of parliament, who toured different centers in the country, emphasized that in Iran, there is freedom of speech in the Majles and freedom of the press. They also noted that women have a role in society; the fact that women make up 50 percent of Iran's teachers is proof of this claim.

President Stresses Importance of Mining Industry

LD2505155893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpts] In a meeting with managers from the mining sector, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that improving modern technology and the provision of investment guarantees were necessary in achieving independence for the country.

In the meeting attended by the minister of mines and metals, the president said the minning industry was one of the fundamental industries of the country and added: Success in the better use of the sector will open a main path for the independence of the country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that exports by the minning and metal sector have increased 14 times in the past 3.5 years, while the domestic market has been saturated. [passage omitted]

He also recalled the importance of gold minning for the country's economy and said that fortunately in the past three years, the necessary technology for the minning and production of gold has been provided and with greater efforts in creating better conditions for production and discovery of new gold deposits, Iran will become one of the world centers for gold production. [passage omitted]

Before the presidential speech, the minster of mines and metals, Engineer Hosayn Mahlujchi, reported on the activities of the ministry. [passage omitted]

He said: In the metal sector we are not an importer; on the contrary, we are on the list of exporting countries. The total export of the sector was $30 million in 1988 but rose to $420 million at the end of last year, and it is predicted that our exports in the first quarter of the current year will be the same as the figure for the whole of last year.

DPK Political Bureau Statement on 22 May Plenum

NC2505122393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 24 May 93

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran on 23 May on the Central Committee's sixth plenum]

[Text] Dear compatriots, o combatant people of Kordestan: The sixth plenum of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] selected by the ninth congress was held on Saturday, 22 May 1993, and ended its work after five rounds of discussion on political issues and the current conditions of the struggle and activities.

During this plenum, special attention was focused on the recent plots by the regime of the Islamic Republic on the Iran-Iraq border. In relation with this, the Central Committee once again emphasized that the objective behind the Islamic Republic's agitation and law-breaking is hostility against the Kurdish nation in general and upsetting the situation that has now emerged in Iraqi Kurdistan. Thus, it is necessary for the political forces within the movement of the Kurdish nation on both sides of the border to maintain their political awareness and to strive, in every possible way, to thwart the plots and ploys by the Iranian regime.

The plenum expressed its complete satisfaction and gratitude on the readiness of the party cadres and peshmerga to confront the assault by the Islamic Republic's forces and described the sense of responsibility felt by the democrat struggles as a lofty example of the political awareness and maturity of the cadres and members of the DPK.

Meanwhile, the Central Committee praised the sentiments and solidarity of the masses in Iraqi Kurdistan and reiterated its gratitude to all the Kurdish parties, organizations, and groups that have supported the DPK and the movement of the Kurdish nation in Iran in every way possible way.

The plenum described the efforts during the recent weeks for uncovering the Islamic Republic's plots, ploys, and objectives as positive and useful and requested that these efforts continue and be expanded as much as possible. In relation with this, the Central Committee deemed it necessary to thank all international organizations and institutions that expressed sympathy toward the DPK and the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan during these incidents or cooperated with the DPK in revealing the clerical regime's agitations.

After assessing the current conditions of the DPK's struggles, the Central Committee plenum put forth effective policies for advancing party affairs and for striving to fulfill the longlasting aspirations of the people of Kordestan.

After the plenum, Central Committee members returned to their areas of activity.

It is hoped that the directives issued by the Central Committee plenum will be a positive element in implementing the revolutionary duties of the party cadres and members and that all the democratic strugglers will correctly and precisely implement these directives.

[Signed] The DPK Political Bureau

[Dated] 23 May 1992

* Slaughter, Distribution of Sick Livestock Noted

93LA0046J London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] The unregulated slaughter and smuggling of ailing livestock in Iran is threatening the health of consumers. Smuggled meat, unlike imported meat or meat slaughtered by the government, is not examined by official inspectors. According to the publication HAMSHAHRI, which is published by the Tehran mayor's office, tens of thousands of cattle and sheep infected with tuberculosis, Bang's disease, and worm parasites are slaughtered without observing any kind of health standards and then distributed among the residents. According to experts and veterinarians, a single tubercular carcass infects at least 50 people with tuberculosis, which is a disease shared by humans and livestock. HAMSHAHRI's reporters wrote: In the southern parts of the capital on Mowlavi Street, meaning in the heart of Tehran, under the noses of urban officials, on Marz Buy alley the smell of the blood of sheep and chicken manure assaults the nostrils of the area's residents. In this neighborhood butchers and poultry sellers are hard at work in an illegal and unsanitary manner, and they are threatening the public's health by distributing poultry and sick livestock.

A resident of the neighborhood said to reporters: Here the nights are like another country. Everyone does what he wants. This person explained: At night machines clean out sheep heads and the basements in this area are the slaughterhouses for the butchers of the city. Another neighborhood resident said: Early in the morning people bring bloody gunny sacks out of the basements and take them elsewhere on motor bikes.

The experts say: Unsanitary slaughter without monitoring carcasses takes away much income that could have gone to the producers. In advanced slaughterhouses, all the guts and viscera of livestock, even blood, waste matter, bones, hooves and horns, are used for livestock food and agricultural fertilizer, but in Iran the shortage of livestock pens, shipping facilities, suitable refrigerators, and the shortage of packaging units have deprived the people of good and sufficient meat. The methods of shipping livestock by truck are defective. By the time they reach Tehran, sheep brought from Yasuj lose 17 percent of their weight. For example, if 10,000 50-kg sheep are shipped in this way, the weight loss will be 20 tons. The former executive director of the National Meat Organization has said: The ignorance and lack of sound and capable management since the revolution have sent the new slaughterhouse, which cost several million dollars to build into the air [as published], yet the slaughterhouses of Europe, one of which I saw in action in the Netherlands, although they are located in the center of the city, are so clean and managed so properly and in such a worthy manner according to principles and technology that there is no unpleasant smell even close by.

In the view of the insiders, the problem of unequal distribution and consumption is also one of the big problems with meat in the country.

Per capita meat consumption in the year 1351 [21 Mar 1972-20 Mar 1973] was about 16 kg. In the year 1354 [21 Mar 1975-20 Mar 1976] this figure reached about 23 kg per year. In the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] it dropped to 18.5 kg and in the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990] it increased to 19.6 kg for each Iranian. In this regard, the former deputy minister of the reconstruction crusade for livestock affairs said: In the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] about 575,000 tons of livestock meat was produced in the country. Yet per capita meat consumption in this year, if we look at the figure for the year 1368, which was 19.6 kg, we realize that in the year 1370 1.16 million tons of meat should have been marketed, yet in this year, counting the imported red meat, about 695,000 tons of meat was marketed, but the consumption was about 465,000 tons. This difference can be considered one of the main reasons for the increase in the price of meat in the country. On the other hand in the year 1357 [21 Mar 1978-20 Mar 1979] for the 33 million people in Iran's population about 500,000 tons of meat was distributed, and in the year 1370 for about 58 million people about 695,000 tons of livestock meat was distributed, meaning that the per-capita amount of meat marketed in the year 1357 was about 14 kg and in the year 1370 it was about 12 kg, which shows a lack of coordination between livestock production and population growth and the gap between supply and consumption.

Actually the amount of meat needed per person per year is 15 kg, and consequently there should be 810,000 tons of meat for the total population of Iran, but based on existing statistics, domestic meat production in the country is 650,000 tons, and with the 100,000 tons of imported meat this comes to 750,000 tons, and thus every year 60,000 tons of the food needed by the public is eliminated.

Pakistan

Supreme Court Overturns President's Dismissal of Sharif

BK2605144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Supreme Court of Pakistan has restored the National Assembly, Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and his cabinet and entitled them to function immediately. In its judgment announced in Islamabad this afternoon, the court by a majority of 10 to one held that the order of the 18th April 1993 passed by the president is not within the ambit of the powers conferred on the president under Article 58 (2B) of the Constitution and other enabling powers available to him in that behalf.

The court said that the president passed Dissolution of National Assembly Order without lawful authority and it is of no legal effect. As a consequence of the court's order, the National Assembly, prime minister and the cabinet shall stand restored and entitled to function immediately as before the impugned order was passed on 18th April. The court held by a majority of 10 to one that the petition of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, is allowed under Article 184 of the Constitution. The court said that all steps taken pursuant to the order dated 18th April 1993 passed under Article 58 (2B) of the Constitution, such as the appointment of the caretaker cabinet etc. will therefore be of no legal effect. However, all orders passed at (?its term) and measures taken in the meanwhile by the caretaker government which has been done, taken, and given effect to in accordance with the terms of the Constitution were required to be done or taken for the orderly running of the state shall be deemed to have been validly and legally done. The Supreme Court did not grant a request of the respondent for a review of the court decision.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had filed a petition against the dissolution of the National Assembly and dismissal of his cabinet in the Supreme Court early this month. Exercising its jurisdiction under Article 184 (3) with regard to enforcement of fundamental rights, the 11-member bench of the court started hearing the case from the 8th of this month. The hearing continued till today. After completion of the hearing the court announced its judgment this afternoon. The full bench comprised the chief justice, Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah, Mr. Justice Shafiur Rahman, Mr. Justice Saad Sayeed Jan, Mr. Justice Abdul Qadir Chaudhary, Mr. Justice Ajmal Mian, Mr. Justice Mohammad Afzal Lone, Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, Mr. Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, Mr. Justice Salim Akhtar, Mr. Justice Seyduzzam Siddiqi, and Mr. Justice Fazal Elahi Khan. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was represented by Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, Mr. Khalid Anwar, Mr. Khalid M. Ishaq, Mr. Zakiuddin Pal, Mr. Aftab Farukh, Chaudhary Mohammad Farooq, Raja Mohammad Akram, and Mr. M. Akram Sheikh.

For the respondent, the attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, Mr. Fakir Mohammad Khokar, Chaudhary Aijaz Ahmad, and Mr. M. Zahurul Haq appeared in the court. The advocates general of the Punjab, Sindh, the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], and Balochistan also appeared in the court.

The hearing of the petition was witnessed by the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub, members of the National Assembly, and national and international media. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif also witnessed the proceedings for some days. The court room and its premises were jampacked by the people. The people congratulated each other on restoration of the National Assembly, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and members of his cabinet.

After the judgment of the court, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, began his engagements by offering thanksgiving nawafil [prayers] at the Faisal Masjid [mosque]. He was accompanied by other members of his cabinet. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi led the thanksgiving prayers. After nawafil, the prime minister prayed for the solidarity and integrity of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said Almighty Allah has crowned with success our efforts for the supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law, and promotion of democracy. He expressed his gratitude to the nation for its sincere wishes and prayers for the success of his cause. Later, the prime minister chaired a meeting of MNA's [members of National Assembly] in Islamabad.

Reaction to Ruling

BK2605130293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 26 May 93

[By Sami Zubeiri; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Islamabad, May 26 (AFP)—Pakistan's Supreme Court in a historic verdict Wednesday [26 May] restored the National Assembly as well as the government of prime minister Nawaz Sharif, five weeks after his sacking by the President.

"The Presidential order has been found "without lawful authority and is of no legal effect," Chief Justice Nasim Hassan Shah said.

Hundreds of Sharif supporters who had thronged the court building greeted the decision with jubilant shouts of "Long live Nawaz Sharif" and "Long live the supreme court."

Hundreds of people danced on streets while the business community distributed sweets, embracing each other in unprecedented jubiliation.

Sharif with his cabinet went to the country's biggest Faisal Mosque to offer thanksgiving prayers amid chants from a vociferous crowd.

The reinstated premier immediately after the verdict summoned his MPs to a meeting at interior minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's residence here later in the evening, while Speaker Gohar Ayub summoned the session of the lower house for Thursday evening.

"A new chapter has been written in the history of Pakistan," said Sharif's lawyer Khalid Anwar, beaming with joy while one of his chamber colleagues was seen wiping tears in his eyes.

The landmark judgement announced by Chief Justice Nasim Hassan Shah which cancels the order of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, was passed by 10 judges against one.

"We uphold that the order of the 18th April 1993 passed by the president of Pakistan is not within the ambit of the powers confered" on him under article 58 of the Constitution.

As a consequence the National Assembly, Prime Minister and the Cabinet shall stand restored and entitled to function immediately as before the impugned order was passed," the court declared.

The court also held invalid the caretaker government of Balkh Sher Mazari appointed by Ishaq Khan, 78, soon after he had fired Sharif.

It refused to grant a request from the government for the suspension of Wednesday's order to enable it to file a review petition.

It was the first time in Pakistan that a dissolved assembly had been restored a sacked prime minister reinstated by the court.

The assembly was the third dissolved in the past five years after late military ruler Mohammed Zia ul Haq, who had amassed sweeping powers for himself by inserting a controversial clause in the constitution, sacked Mohammed Khan Junejo in 1988.

Two years later Ishaq Khan invoked the same clause in dismissing Benazir Bhutto after her 20 months rule.

Ishaq Khan had used the same power for the second time on April 18 when he dismissed Sharif on charges of "corruption, mismanagement and subversion of constitution."

The action came in the wake of a bitter tussle between the country's two top men over Sharif's plans to clip the discretionary authority of the presidency.

Sharif was the first prime minister to personally challenge the presidential action dubbing it "illegal, unconstitutional and malafide (in bad faith)", and based on "personal vendetta."

Eleven judges of the country's highest judicial forum heard Sharif's petition for almost three weeks as nerve taxing suspense gripped Pakistan.

During the proceedings, presidential counsel argued that the dissolution had become necessary because the relations between Ishaq Khan and Sharif had deteriorated to a point that the two could not work together.

Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan, terming it a historic day in Pakistan, said "the sovereignty has returned to where it belonged."

"It was a tremendous day," marking the start of flourishing a "true democracy" in the country, Ayub told reporters in his assembly chamber.

"People who usurped the power under false interpretations of the constitution have been defeated," he added.

The president had promised elections for July 14 saying that an appeal to the electorate had become necessary, two and a half years before the expiry of the current assembly.

But all political activity had come to a standstill while business and the economy had slowed down pending the court decision on the petition of reformist premier.

Though the court has restored Sharif's government unconditionally, political circles here said the future remained uncertain and several scenarios could evolve from the decision.

Among the possibilities debated here are that Ghulam Ishaq Khan could step down, seek a reconciliation with Sharif or impose a state of emergency which would suspend constitutional rights for four months.

There was also the possibility of a vote against Sharif by dissaffected members of the restored assembly.

Sharif has said he would be ready to seek fresh vote of confidence while the speaker has summoned the session of the National Assembly for Thursday.

President To Abide by Verdict

BK2605141793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1405 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President's House] has said that the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, held the country's judiciary in the highest of esteem and would respect the judgments given by the Supreme Court today in the constitutional petition of Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in that spirit. The spokesman emphasized that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has always tried to the best of his wisdom and belief to act in accordance with the Constitution and the law, which were, in fact, an article of faith with him. He would continue to do so in future both as constitutional obligation and a religious duty and for the best interest of the country's integrity, the good of the nation, and the future of democracy, the spokesman added.

Afghan President Views Weapons Collection, Departs

BK2505145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was given a warm send-off when he left Islamabad this afternoon at the end of a four-day official visit to Pakistan. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, bade farewell to the distinguished guest. The interior minister, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, federal secretary and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

On way to Kabul, the Afghan president made a stopover in Peshawar. Talking to PTV [Pakistan Television] Peshawar representaive Javed Iqbal Piracha, Professor Rabbani said under the Jalalabad accord steps will soon be taken to collect weapons from mojehedin tanzimats [organizations]. The steps, he said, will help consolidate peace in Afghanistan. In reply to a question, the Afghan president said all parts of Afghanistan, including the northern areas, have been and would continue to be under the complete control of the Afghanistan Government.

Statement Regrets UN Inaction on Bosnian Crisis

BK2605040193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pakistan, along with members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and the nonaligned countries in the Security Council, will continue to promote effective Security Council measures that will put an end to the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and secure the reversal of Serbian aggression. An official statement issued in Islamabad yesterday said that it is disappointing that, despite the sincere efforts of the Islamic countries in the United Nations, the Security Council has failed to address the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in fulfillment of its responsibility of maintaining international peace and security as envisaged under the UN Charter. Pakistan has called upon the international community, particularly the major powers, to ensure strict application of the principles of the UN Charter in resolving the Bosnian-Herzegovina conflict.

The statement said the joint action program for the former Yugoslavia by the United States, Russia, and their key European allies contains many important proposals, including the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian people. These are useful steps, but they would have been more meaningful if suggested within an overall framework of a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Bosnian crisis. These measures are not directed toward reversing Serbian aggression, which is the fundamental issue in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under no circumstances should the international community accept or recognize the consequences of ethnic cleansing.

The statement says the recent Islamic foreign ministers conference in Karachi has provided an appropriate framework for resolving the conflict in accordance with the principle of the Charters of the United Nations and the ICO. The Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina demonstrated considerable courage and statesmanship in accepting the Vance-Owen peace plan, despite serious reservations. The ICO supported this decision in the hope that acceptance by all parties of this plan would pave the way for an honorable and just settlement of the Bosnian conflict. Rejection by the Bosnian Serbs of the peace plan has shattered this hope.

Ishaq Khan Decorates Chinese Air Force Chief

BK2505150693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz, military, on the Chinese air chief, Lieutenant General Cao Shuang Ming, in Islamabad today. The Chinese air chief called on the president and discussed matters of regional and bilateral interest. Later, in an impressive ceremony, the president conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz, military, on Lt. Gen. Cao Shuang Ming. The award has been conferred on the Chinese air chief for promoting closer ties between the two friendly countries. During the ceremony, high-ranking civil and military officials, including members of the diplomatic corps, were present.

New Islamic Front Outlines 14-Point Program

BK2505103393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 May 93 p 12

[Text] Lahore, May 24—In a national convention under the auspices of the Jamaat-i Islami, formation of a new political but religious-oriented organisation entitled Pakistan Islamic Front was anounced here on Sunday [23 May].

This front will aim at providing the nation and country a new honest, sincere, able and God-fearing leadership, in order to enforce Islamic system in Pakistan and to eliminate feudals and capitalists class from the country.

About four thousand persons from all over the country attended the moot. Most of them were Jamaat-i Islami workers, members and local leaders. Some other religious and political workers also attended the convention. However, the state secretary announced messages from different trade unions, workers, and employees associations that they would go with the new front.

The list of participants released to press included the names of as many as 20 retired senior officers belonging in army, air force and navy.

The declaration adopted by the convention provides for a separate organisational setup, headed by Qazi Hussain Ahmad. The front will take part in next general elections and all patriotic and sincere persons could be members of this front.

The front's 14-points programme is as follows:

1. Rights to create an exploitation-free society and equal distribution of wealth. Every citizen will be provided basic necessities of life and respect.

2. To ensure the provincial autonomy given in the Constitution, and to end the ethnic, linguistic, regional provincial and sectarian prejudicies.

3. Reformation in the administrative system of the country.

4. A permanent accountability system for president, prime minister, ministers, members of assembly and other politicians.

5. Redistribution of powers from top to lower level.

6. A respectable status for women as provided in the Islamic system.

7. A just system of wages for working classes.

8. Religious freedom and protection of rights of minorities.

9. To make Pakistan a developed country of 21st century.

10. To play a role for the unity of Islamic world in order to make an effective Islamic Ummah.

11. Not to accept any pressure in respect of nuclear programme.

12. To continue support for the Kashmiri people in accordance with UN resolutions.

13. To reform the electoral system so that only rich persons should not get themselves elected as peoples representatives.

14. To make political, economic, and foreign policy in the wider interests of the country, without accepting any foreign pressure or interference.

The convention through its declaration expressed serious concern over the present political and constitutional crisis. The role of the president, caretaker government, Mian Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto in creating the present crisis was bitterly criticised. Criticizing PPP [Pakistan People's Party], the declaration remarked that the concept of liberal Islam as announced at the time of election campaign by the PPP leadership was aimed at pleasing America.

Earlier in his inaugural speech Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the formation of a new Islamic front would be a new milestone in our national and political life. He announced that those who for the sake of national solidarity and unity could rise above their personal and sectional interests, especially political, regional, ethnic and sectarian, should join hands and make a platform. This would provide the nation a leadership on the basis of Islamic unity. He said under the capitalists, feudals, and bureaucrats the nation had suffered very badly and these forces had left the country destabilised.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the country at present was faced with serious internal and external challenges and the time demands new leadership to cope with them.

Gen (Ret'd) Shafiq Ahmad Awan, said after almost 40 years of creation of Pakistan, we had failed to achieve the basic objectives for the creation of Pakistan. He said military, civil bureaucracy political leadership, economic experts, and religious leadership all had contributed in deteriorating national affairs.

Gen (Ret'd) Tajammul Hussain addressing the convention said that Pakistan was only constitutionally liberated 45 years ago, but practically, we were still under the influence of Eastern powers. There is no change in the system.

Retired general said any government which is not run under the Koranic order, its rulers are only oppressors and usurpers. He said under the command of same Koranic order he revolted againt Gen Ziaul Haq and during his trial. He took the same plea. He said only an Islamic system could root out all our problems and difficulties.

Senator Alam Ali Laleka said Pakistan was created in the name of Islam and only an Islamic system could improve the situation in the country.

He said 95 per cent crimes are being committed at the behest of people's representatives. The senator described the 8th Amendment as an illegal [word indistinct] of the martial law and said the (?present) crisis had erupted due to the amendment.

Mr Laleka said the message of Qazi Hussain Ahmad he received was that everybody keeping his association with his respective political party could join this front in order to serve the country. At the end of his speech, he announced to continue to serve his party Muslim league.

The list of speakers includes Air Marshal Ayaz Ahmad Khan, Admiral Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Tariq Saeed an industrialist, Abdul Rehman Chalpra, Pir Saeed Jan Sarhaudi, Dr. Abdul Ghaffer Bhatti, a former advisor to General Gilani Khan, Ali Mir Shah, Gen (Retd.) Muhammad Afzai Khan, Khursheed Gilani, Major Gen (Ret'd) Tajammul Hussain, Senator Alam Ali Laleka, Allam Ali Ghesanfar Karak, Al'am Javed, Mufti Ghulam Sarwar Qadri, and others.

The names of retired senior army officers who attended the convention are: Major Gen (Ret'd) Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Major Gen Qamar Ali Mirza, Air Marshal Avaz Ahmad Khan, Vice Admiral Riaz, Rear Admiral M Ishaq Arshad, Group Capt Rabnawaz Khan, Group Capt Muhammad Saleh Maitla, Brig Zulfiqar Ali, Brig Bashir Hussain, Khattak, Commodore Farooq Mirza, Lt Col Lutaf Ullah Niazi, and Lt Col Ghulam Ahmad Chaudhary.

Sri Lanka

Three Tamils Die in Navy Attack on Rebel Boats

BK2505115693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 25 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan navy killed three Tamil guerrillas in an attack on rebel boats that were providing protection to hundreds of civilians crossing a prohibited waterway in the north, residents said Tuesday [25 May].

Navy craft opened fire on boats manned by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas in the northern Jaffna lagoon late Monday, killing three rebels, travellers arriving on the mainland said.

Despite the 45-minute sea battle between the navy and the Tigers about 100 boats packed with civilians safely completed their dangerous three-hour journey from the Jaffna Peninsula to Kilinochchi on the mainland, the residents said.

"All the boats crossed safely. No civilians were hurt because they were away from the shooting," a traveller from the peninsula said by telephone after reaching Vavuniya town, 160 miles (255 kilometers) north of here.

He said that the successful crossing was one of the biggest undertaken by Jaffna civilians in recent months.

A military spokesman confimred that there had been "a shoot-out" in the lagoon but had no word on casualties.

The navy has frequently attacked LTTE guerrilla boats in the lagoon since the waterway was declared a no-go-zone in October to prevent rebels from supplying men and material to their main Jaffna stronghold via the sea route.

The rebels have also been running a transport service for civilians wanting to travel between the peninsula and the mainland with their armed patrol craft providing protection to the boat passengers during the perilous trip.

Civilians make the illegal crossing despite of the risk of getting killed because all other sea and land routes between the two points have been closed either by security forces or the Tigers.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils who are concentrated in the region. Thousands have been killed in the campaign.

Battles in Northeast Leave 7 Dead

BK2605113893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0959 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 26 (AFP)—Government troops killed at least three Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northeastern Sri Lanka and lost one of their own while the rebels separately killed three members of a rival group, officials said Wednesday [26 May].

Security forces killed at least three guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in an ambush in northeast Weli Oya late Tuesday and seized an automatic weapon and several grenades from the dead rebels, officials said.

An army commando who was returning to camp after the lightning military strike was killed when he accidentally stepped on a pressure mine laid by security forces in the region, officials said.

Meanwhile, LTTE guerrillas ambushed and killed at least three cadres of the rival Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) in northern Vavuniya, local officials said.

Another TELO cadre was wounded when LTTE rebels attacked them in the suburbs of the government-controlled Vavuiya town, a local official quoted police in the area as saying.

The TELO is sideing with security forces in the fight against the Tigers who are seeking to set up a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils. Thousands have been killed in the Tamil independence struggle.

Detention of Tamils Without Trial Criticized

BK2505112593 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 14 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Issue of Tamil Prisoners"]

[Text] Most Tamil youths have been viewed with suspicion after the emergence of an armed clashes following the intensification of the ethnic conflict in the country. Against this backdrop, several people have been arrested and held in detention camps for an extended time without trial.

In the southern Sri Lankan detention camps, 827 Tamil prisoners from the Northeastern Province have been detained for more than two and a half years. Probably, most of these youths arrested on suspicion are innocent. These youths lament the fact that no constructive steps have been taken so far, despite their repeated appeals and hunger strikes for a fair trial or their summary release. In the past, most of these youths had either been attending educational courses, looking for jobs, or had been full-time breadwinners for their families. The parents and relatives of these youths have been distressed owing to their absence for well over two and a half years. Several Tamil parliamentarians have highlighted in vain the unreasonable detention of these innocent youths that has led to their bleak future.

Meanwhile, parliamentarian Joseph Parajasingham has made an appeal to President Wijetunge at an appropriate time. He has requested the president to initiate steps to identify the Tamil youths in the southern Sri Lankan

detention camps who cannot be prosecuted and release them under a general amnesty as a goodwill gesture and also appoint an inquiry commission to look into the charges against others.

There is no doubt that President D.B. Wijetunge, who is creating hope in the minds of people by finding quick solutions to most long-standing problems, will earn the appreciation of Tamils if he finds an amicable settlement to the prisoner issue. As a democracy, Sri Lanka should adopt the principles of democracy and ethics. No innocent person should be punished. By expediting the process of investigations on the detained Tamils, the innocent will be identified and released. This will be a humanitarian gesture.

Today, the Tamil-speaking people are dismayed for several reasons. In their native places or at their places of residence, they are not able to lead a peaceful and steady life. Such circumstances only force most of the youths to think about deviating to other ways. By subjecting the detained Tamil youths to quick investigations and releasing the innocent, the youths and their families will be granted a bright future. This will be an opportune moment to prove that humanity, truth, and honesty have not yet died in this country. Besides, this will also help counter the accusations and criticisms of the international community about excesses committed against prisoners.